



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

No. 175

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 14, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KAIALI'I KAHELE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy and eternal God, praise be to Your name forever and ever. All wisdom and power are Yours. When measured against Your authority and dominion over the whole of creation, any advantage we boast, any victory we claim, fall short.

Humble us that we would acknowledge that all we have is Yours and any influence we wield is held accountable to Your design.

Immutable Lord, You change times and seasons, depose rulers, and raise up those who would replace them. Shape our sense of success into an awareness of and a commitment to our responsibility to live into Your grace plan.

Transform any sense of failure into the certainty of Your steadfast love and abiding faith in us. We are each held in the palm of Your guiding hand.

Grant wisdom to those who seek to become wise in serving You; and give knowledge to those who would discern Your will for their lives.

In the strength of Your eternal name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Biden and House Democrats inherited a strong economy from President Donald Trump that worked for American families.

Unfortunately, under a Federal Government controlled by Democrats, inflation is at a 40-year high, illegal aliens are crossing the southern border at record numbers, and strategic oil reserves are at the lowest level since 1984, just to name a few of the serious challenges facing the country.

Now, through the democratic process, voters supported a Republican majority led by KEVIN MCCARTHY to the House of Representatives which will promote positive change.

House Republicans will immediately produce legislation reflecting the commitment to America. Republicans are focused on: a Nation that is safe; an economy that is strong; a future built on freedom; a government accountable to the people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Congratulations, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

### RECOGNIZING OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for a record-breaking 13th consecutive year, Old Dominion Freight Line has been named the number one National LTL Carrier for Quality.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous feat, and one that underscores how this company has maintained a commitment to excellence since its inception in 1934.

Not only is Old Dominion a force to be reckoned with in delivering freight, both domestically and internationally, but it is also an economic driver in North Carolina.

Congratulations to Old Dominion and its countless dedicated employees. The work you do around the clock helps the world keep its promises.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. REGINA MOODY

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, I spoke here to pay tribute to the wonderful place in Gaston County, North Carolina, called Holy Angels. Then it was being recognized for its 60th year fulfilling their mission of "loving, living, and learning for the differently able."

Today, I am here to honor the leader of this organization, Regina Moody, who, after 40 years as president and CEO of Holy Angels, is retiring.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I have known Dr. Moody for most of my life. In fact, prior to her work at Holy Angels, she was my principal at St. Michael's School in Gastonia, where she spent a lot of time with my two brothers in the principal's office.

Dr. Moody has been a visionary leader for Holy Angels. Under her leadership, the organization has greatly expanded its level of full-time resident care, as well as physical therapy, day, and vocational programs. They also opened several local businesses to serve the community and give their residents occupational experience.

I wish Dr. Moody and her family the very best as she begins a very well-deserved retirement.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### ANDREW K. BAKER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2159) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2159

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ANDREW K. BAKER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "A.K. Baker VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 2159.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Kenneth Baker, an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief, a distinguished combat search and rescue swimmer, and a faithful servicemember who gave his life honoring his commitment to his country.

The bill before us, S. 2159, would appropriately name VA's community-based outreach clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA Clinic.

Chief Petty Officer Baker represented self-sacrifice and courage in the name of public service.

Born in West Virginia in 1960, Chief Petty Officer Baker moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1980 to begin what would be a remarkable 17-year stint in the U.S. Navy.

In Pensacola, CPO Baker graduated from the Search and Rescue Swimmer School before entering Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, where he earned his "Wings of Gold."

Upon graduation, CPO Baker served on the USS *Nimitz*, reporting to HS-9, a helicopter antisubmarine warfare squadron for the Navy. From there, he served on HS-3 as the Training and Operations Chief for another antisubmarine warfare squadron safeguarding American interests over and under the seas.

Tragically, on March 13, 1997, while serving aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy*, Chief Petty Officer Baker and three others perished when their H-60 "Sea Hawk" helicopter crashed at sea during a Navy SEAL training mission.

Though his life was tragically cut short, in his 17 years of service, CPO Baker managed to cement a legacy of leadership, dedication, and steadfastness which will reverberate for generations to come. Indeed, today, Chief Petty Officer Baker is survived by his wife, Tina, and their son, who, himself, has completed six tours in Iraq, carrying on his father's legacy as a decorated patriot.

During his lifetime of service, Chief Petty Officer Baker won various honors, including the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the American Defense Service Medal, among others.

Today, I hope we will come together to honor Chief Petty Officer Baker one more time by renaming the VA's community-based outreach clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA Clinic.

As an institution dedicated to supporting those who served, it is fitting that this VA clinic bear the name of a Navy chief who placed service to others above all else. With this legislation, we will take an important step in commemorating one servicemember's cour-

age and bravery, as we continue to honor all those who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for S. 2159 from The American Legion, VFW, and Disabled American Veterans as well as the Florida delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER,  
Orlando, FL, December 21, 2021.

Re Support for S. 2159, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Middleburg, Florida located in Clay County as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

Hon. MARCO RUBIO,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR RUBIO: On behalf of The American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc., we write to lend our support in naming the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic after Chief Andrew K. Baker of Middleburg, Florida.

Chief Baker was an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief and combat search and rescue swimmer of HS-3 in Jacksonville, Florida. After quickly rising through the ranks at Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, Chief Baker earned his Wings of Gold for distinguished performance and served a tour on the U.S.S. *Nimitz*, being assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. In 1997, Chief Baker lost his life during a mission in North Carolina when his H-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed at sea during a SEAL training mission. His legacy currently lives on in his son who has completed six tours in the Middle East and has proven himself a dedicated hero.

We know that in naming the new Veterans Affairs clinic for Chief Baker, his heroic legacy will be enhanced in the Clay County community and will inspire future servicemen and women from across our great state.

Sincerely,

JERRY BRANDT,  
Department Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
Ocala, FL, September 30, 2021.

Hon. MARCO RUBIO,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR RUBIO: On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Florida we write to lend our support in naming the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic after Chief Andrew K. Baker of Middleburg, Florida.

Chief Baker was an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief and combat search and rescue swimmer of HS-3 in Jacksonville, Florida. After quickly rising through the ranks at Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, Chief Baker earned his Wings of Gold for distinguished performance and served a tour on the USS *Nimitz* being assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. In 1997, Chief lost his life during a mission in North Carolina when his H-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed at sea during a SEAL training mission. His legacy now lives on in his son who currently has six completed tours in the Middle East and has proven himself a dedicated hero.

We know that in naming a new VA clinic for Chief Baker, his heroic legacy will be enhanced in the Clay County community and will inspire future service men and women from across our great state.

Yours in Comradeship,  
DANETTE JEAN HERNANDEZ,  
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,  
Gainesville, FL, January 11, 2022.

Re Support for S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, to name the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, FL, the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Florida is writing this letter in support of legislation introduced by Senators MARCO RUBIO and RICK SCOTT. The propose legislation S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, would name the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, Florida after U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew K. Baker, Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic, who was killed during a training mission.

An antisubmarine warfare chief, CPO Baker was a combat search and rescue swimmer attached to HS-3 homeported at NAS Jacksonville. Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and USS *Coral Sea* as a ship's serviceman. Baker was killed when Trident 615, a H-60 Seahawk, crashed at sea on March 13, 1997, during a SEAL training event. CPO Baker served for seventeen years before his death.

We believe that naming the Clay County VA Clinic after Chief Petty Officer Andrew K. Baker will ensure the honor of duty he displayed for our grateful Nation. We respectfully request the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees quickly consider this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN RABER,  
Department Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, January 11, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN TESTER AND TAKANO, RANKING MEMBERS MORAN AND BOST: As Members of the Florida Delegation, we write in support of S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, legislation that would name the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in Clay County, Florida after U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Kenneth Baker. Chief Baker served his country honorably for 17 years before tragically perishing while aboard Trident 615, an HH-60H "Sea Hawk" helicopter that crashed at sea on March 13, 1997.

Chief Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and USS *Coral Sea* as a Ship's Serviceman. He is a graduate of Search and Rescue Swimmer School in Pensacola and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." Chief Baker then reported to HS-9, where he served on the USS *Nimitz*; and then at HS-3, where he was assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. His dedication to our nation reflects great honor on his family and our community. It is fitting that a VA clinic, an institution dedicated to supporting those who served, should be named after a faithful service member.

We respectfully request the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs quickly consider this important legislation. Please see the attached letters of support from the Florida Chapters of Several Veteran Service Organizations.

Sincerely,

MARCO RUBIO, U.S. Senator; RICK SCOTT, U.S. Senator; KAT CAMMACK, STEPHANIE

MURPHY, MATT GAETZ, LOIS FRANKEL, CARLOS GIMENEZ, GUS BILIRAKIS, MARIO DIAZ BALART, BILL POSEY, BRIAN MAST, W. GREGORY STEUBE, JOHN H. RUTHERFORD, MIKE WALTZ, VAL DEMINGS, NEAL P. DUNN, M.D., C. SCOTT FRANKLIN, MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR, CHARLIE CRIST, AL LAWSON, DANIEL WEBSTER, TED DEUTCH, FREDERICA S. WILSON, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, BRYON DONALDS, KATHY CASTOR, VERN BUCHANAN, DARREN SOTO; Member of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank Representative CAMMACK and the Florida delegation for their work on this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2159, a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA clinic.

Chief Petty Officer Baker was a respected naval aircrewman, antisubmarine warfare chief, and combat rescue swimmer. He served on the USS *Carl Vinson*, CVN-70, and USS *Coral Sea* as a ship's serviceman.

He was a graduate of Search and Rescue Swimmer School in Pensacola, and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at Naval Air Station Jax.

While assigned to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 3, or HS-3, he served as the training and operations chief. Tragically, he lost his life while on a training mission off the coast of North Carolina in 1997, along with three of his fellow crewmen, when their H-60 Sea Hawk crashed into the sea.

He dedicated 17 years of service to our Nation's Navy and was responsible for training numerous warfighters.

In the aftermath of this training accident, the Navy reviewed many of its training policies, and Chief Baker continues his legacy by potentially saving future aircrewmen lives. Naming this clinic after Chief Baker will serve as an inspiration and a tribute to his service.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in overwhelming support for the passage of S. 2159, or H.R. 1960, a bill designating the Florida Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs.

First, I thank the entire Florida delegation for their support of this legislation, the entire Clay County community, the local elected officials who participated in this process, and all of the many veterans who call Clay County home.

Of course, my biggest thanks go to Ms. Tina Baker, the widow of Chief Andrew K. Baker.

Without a doubt, today's legislation would not be here for a vote without my colleague from Florida, Senator MARCO RUBIO, who ushered this legislation through the Senate Chamber earlier this year. I thank Senator RUBIO for his work on this bill.

This bill honors Antisubmarine Warfare Chief Andrew Kenneth Baker of Middleburg, Florida. Tragically, he lost his life in service to our great Nation. On March 13, 1997, Chief Baker's H-60 Seahawk crashed at sea during a SEAL training exercise. The mix of rough seas, the pitch of a frigate, fatigue, and visual disorientation caused by the night vision goggles they were all wearing were all factors in the accident.

As a result of his death, the Navy launched a formal review of its training policies and has since made drastic changes with regard to night vision training.

His widow, Tina, not wanting her husband's death to be in vain, has worked hard to make sure his memory and service didn't get lost in time and paperwork. Today, we have the chance to make sure that her husband is remembered forever.

Chief Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and the USS *Coral Sea* as the ship's serviceman and completed training in Search and Rescue Swimmer School at Pensacola, and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at NAS Jax, where he earned his "Wings of Gold."

Chief Baker then reported to HS-9, serving on the USS *Nimitz*, then on HS-3, where he was assigned as the Training and Operations Chief.

□ 1415

At home in Middleburg, Chief Baker was an avid fisherman, always scouring the waters of Black Creek and the St. John's River as much as he could. He coached his son's Little League and served as the troop leader for the local Cub Scouts. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Tina, and sons, Andrew and Jacob.

As a personal point of privilege, I say that this clinic has been a large part of my professional life for the past decade. Back in 2015, as the deputy chief of staff serving this district, our team worked hard to secure the appropriations funding for this clinic. Once we succeeded in getting this project funded, finding the building that met the required specs was an entirely new and frustrating battle. After multiple failed attempts to secure a building, we finally succeeded.

This clinic has been a blessing to my beloved Clay County and to the veterans who call her home. With today's legislation as the final task outstanding, I can say with confidence to Chief Baker's widow, Tina: Now, he will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous passage of this legislation and look forward to it being signed into law to honor this incredible servicemember and his family.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman on this accomplishment, and I congratulate her also on her hard work in securing funding for the community-based outreach clinic.

I know how much of a difference they make, and I take this moment to call attention to the fact that the bipartisan achievement of funding so many community-based outreach clinics in the Honoring our PACT Act was transformational for this country, transformational for America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2159, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2159.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CORPORAL JERRY K. CRUMP VA CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5481) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Corporal Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5481

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5481, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Master Sergeant J.K. Crump, a native of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and a Korean war veteran who embodied the courage and indomitable fighting spirit of our Nation's Armed Forces.

This bill, H.R. 5481, as amended, will name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

I thank my colleague, Representative VIRGINIA FOXX, for introducing this bill.

In early September 1951, Master Sergeant Crump, then an 18-year-old Army rifleman, and fellow members of Company L of the 3rd Infantry Division were attacked by invading Chinese forces near Chorwon, Korea. In the fire-fight that ensued, Master Sergeant Crump left cover twice: first, to retrieve a wounded comrade, and then again to recapture a machine gun from advancing Chinese soldiers.

After returning to his position, an enemy grenade was flung into the fox-hole that Master Sergeant Crump shared with four wounded infantrymen. With no regard for his own well-being, Master Sergeant Crump covered the explosives with his own body. The grenade detonated, but miraculously, Master Sergeant Crump survived.

The heroism that Master Sergeant Crump displayed that day more than 70 years ago undoubtedly saved the lives of fellow soldiers and rightfully earned him the Medal of Honor, our highest military decoration for valor, which President Truman awarded him in 1952.

Master Sergeant Crump went on to serve another 26 years in the U.S. Army before retiring in 1976. He died a year later and was interred at the Mount Zion Community Cemetery in Cornelius, North Carolina.

Master Sergeant Crump's actions in combat were emblematic of the selfless sacrifice and devotion to duty that so many who don the uniform of our great Nation display. He, and the generation of those who served alongside him, truly represented the best ideals of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 5481, as amended, from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
*Raleigh, NC, March 16, 2022.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FOXX, It is with a great deal of pride that I endorse the naming of the Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, after the Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Jerry Crump.

I am personally familiar with the facility in Forest City. I receive my medical atten-

tion at that clinic. The Forest City VA clinic is a wonderful facility, and the staff is outstanding.

I have met with the American Legion members in Forest City and in Henrietta, NC who have advocated for the renaming to the Jerry Crump VA Medical Clinic. There are a few older American Legion members that remember attending school with Jerry. The communities of Forest City and Henrietta are proud of the native son and have often advocated for this honor. The American Legion Department of North Carolina does whole heartily support the renaming of the Forest City VA clinic after Medal of Honor Recipient Jerry Crump.

The honor of naming a Forest City VA Clinic after this courageous American would be a fitting tribute to Corporal Crump.

Respectfully,

JIM QUINLAN,  
*The American Legion,  
Department of North Carolina.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
*Raleigh, NC, March 10, 2022.*

Rep. VIRGINIA FOXX,  
*Washington, DC.*

Re Endorsement of naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Forest City, NC after MOH Recipient Jerry Crump.

DEAR REP FOXX: As the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America, Department of North Carolina, I am writing you to express full support of the naming of the VA Outpatient Clinic in Forest City, NC, after Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Jerry Crump. Mr. Crump embodied the spirit of patriotism, valor, fidelity and selfless service needed to save the Soldiers of his Platoon from death or serious injury when they came under attack on September 6-7, 1951 during the Korean War. Mr. Crump heroically flung himself on a grenade from an enemy Soldier and shielded his comrades from the blast. Naming this VA Outpatient Clinic in his name would be a great honor to this distinguished Soldier

RUSSELL CHAMBERS,  
*State Commander,  
Department of North Carolina.*

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
*Raleigh, NC, March 8, 2022.*

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
*Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
*Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.*

CHAIRMAN MARK TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST: On behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Department of North Carolina, we are honored to extend our support to the efforts of Congresswoman Virginia Foxx to designate the Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, after Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Cpl. Jerry Crump.

During the Korean War, on September 7, 1951, Cpl. Crump embodied outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty to save his brothers in arms. His selflessness and gallantry inspired his comrades to aggressively counterattack and drive enemy forces from their perimeter. In memorializing his name may everyone who enters this facility remember that all gave some and some gave all.

Sincerely,  
VERTIS R. RICHARDSON, III,  
*Department Commander.*  
JANICE WEATHERS,  
*Department Adjutant.*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5481, as

amended. By doing so, we will bestow a befitting name on this facility in Ruth-erford County, North Carolina, where so many military veterans receive top-notch medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5481, as amended, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

Master Sergeant Crump was a soldier in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he received the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart for his heroic actions in September 1951.

Master Sergeant Crump rose above and beyond the call of duty in combat. One night, a numerically superior enemy force launched an assault against his unit's position on Hill 284. In danger of being overrun, he repeatedly put himself in danger, effectively firing on enemy combatants, killing several of them.

He then noticed two enemy soldiers on the verge of capturing an American machine gun. He charged at them with his bayonet, killing both and regaining control of the weapon.

Upon returning to his firing position, an enemy grenade landed in his bunker. He proceeded to jump on it and absorbed the blast, saving his fellow soldiers. His actions inspired his men so much that they rallied and conducted a successful counterattack.

It is for those heroic actions that Master Sergeant Crump was presented with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor.

He miraculously survived the war and lived another 26 years. Tragically, he died in a car accident in 1977, at age 43, in Lincoln County, North Carolina. It is only fitting that this clinic be named after its hometown hero. It will serve as an inspiration, just like Master Sergeant Crump, for many generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that our good friend, VIRGINIA FOXX, is not here, but I thank Ranking Member FOXX for bringing to our attention the amazing story of this American hero.

I know the gentleman from Texas shares the growing emotion that I feel as we recognize these American heroes. It is truly remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I likewise urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5481, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5481, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the 'Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RICHARD A. PITTMAN VA CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6722) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6722

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Richard A. Pittman was born on May 26, 1945, in French Camp, California.

(2) Richard A. Pittman enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965 and was later promoted to Lance Corporal.

(3) On July 24, 1966, Lance Corporal Pittman's unit, First Platoon, Company I, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack.

(4) Upon hearing the attack, Lance Corporal Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he advanced, Lance Corporal Pittman encountered intense small-arms fire at point-blank range. He was able to return fire and silence the enemy combatants. Continuing towards the attacked Marines, Lance Corporal Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy.

(5) When Lance Corporal Pittman learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gunfire to get to them. As he reached them, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters.

(6) Lance Corporal Pittman used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy sub-machine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause enemy forces to withdraw. Due to his courageous actions, many of his wounded comrades were saved.

(7) In recognition of his bravery that day, Richard A. Pittman, who was then a Sergeant, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

(8) Richard A. Pittman retired in 1988 as a Master Sergeant, after having served in the Marine Corps for more than two decades.

#### SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, FRENCH CAMP, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient

clinic in French Camp, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6722.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of a remarkable Californian, Master Sergeant Richard Allan Pittman, by naming VA's brand-new, state-of-the-art outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

I thank my friend and colleague, Representative JERRY MCNERNEY of California, for leading this legislation, which will appropriately pay tribute to Master Sergeant Pittman, a marine who served his Nation with honor and distinction during and after the Vietnam war.

A native of the San Joaquin Valley, Master Sergeant Pittman was born in French Camp, California, in 1945 and graduated from Franklin High School in nearby Stockton in 1964.

Declared legally blind in one eye, Master Sergeant Pittman was considered medically unfit for combat by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, but he did not let that deter him. Set on serving in the military, Master Sergeant Pittman somehow bluffed a vision test and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1965. He was soon deployed to Vietnam.

On July 24, 1966, as his unit moved along a narrow jungle path near the demilitarized zone, marines ahead of him came under heavy fire. Master Sergeant Pittman immediately leaped into action, grabbing a machine gun and several belts of ammunition as he rushed to his comrades' defense.

Facing a frontal assault by dozens of North Vietnamese troops, Master Sergeant Pittman boldly repelled the enemy attack by using a combination of weapons he had at his disposal.

His actions that day no doubt saved the lives of several wounded marines. For this "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life," Master Sergeant Pittman was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson in 1968.

He was discharged from the service that year, but Master Sergeant Pittman chose to reenlist. He went on to serve another 18 years in the Marines before retiring in 1988. He died in 2016 at the age of 71.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, the U.S. Armed Forces' highest declaration for valor, Master Sergeant Pittman also received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

These distinctions, like the naming of this VA clinic, are just symbols, however. The true measure of Master Sergeant Pittman's character was revealed to the world on that July day in 1966 and is evident in the lives of the marines that he saved.

I am humbled to be able to honor Master Sergeant Pittman's service, and I am proud to count him among the brave and dutiful servicemen and -women who have fought for centuries in defense of the American ideals we hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6722 from the California delegation, as well as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded com-

rades, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

We urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

JERRY MCNERNEY, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, U.S. Senator, NANCY PELOSI, Member of Congress, MARK TAKANO, JOSH HARDER, ALEX PADILLA, KEVIN MCCARTHY, JARED HUFFMAN, SCOTT H. PETERS, KAREN BASS, JACKIE SPEIER, AMI BERA, M.D., JUDY CHU, KATIE PORTER, GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, JIM COSTA, JIMMY PANETTA, Members of Congress.

KEN CALVERT, JAY OBERNOLTE, ANNA G. ESHOO, ZOE LOFGREN, J. LUIS CORREA, SARA JACOBS, TONY CÁRDENAS, YOUNG KIM, JOHN GARAMENDI, RAUL RUIZ, M.D., TED LIEU, JUAN VARGAS, NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN, MARK DESAULNIER, LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, JULIA BROWNLEY, ALAN LOWENTHAL, BRAD SHERMAN, BARBARA LEE, MIKE LEVIN, Members of Congress.

ERIC SWALWELL, MICHELLE STEEL, ADAM B. SCHIFF, MIKE THOMPSON, TOM MCCLINTOCK, NORMA J. TORRES, PETE AGUILAR, DORIS MATSUI, MIKE GARCIA, DOUG LAMALFA, RO KHANNA, DARRELL ISSA, MAXINE WATERS, CONNIE CONWAY, SALUD CARBAJAL, DAVID G. VALADAO, JIMMY GOMEZ, Members of Congress.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,  
Sanger, CA, July 20, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: I write to inform you that the California Department of The American Legion wholeheartedly supports H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his fellow comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun-fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of

machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded comrades, and he subsequently was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant, Richard Pittman remained a visible and active member of the community in the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, California, promoting patriotism and citizenship.

We urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

JERE ROMANO,  
*Commander,*  
*The American Legion,*  
*Department of California.*

VFW,  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
Elk Grove, CA, May 31, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: I write to inform you that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California supports H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded comrades, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant, Richard Pittman remained



a visible and active member of the community in the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, California, promoting patriotism and citizenship.

I urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

DAWN M. NAPIER,  
Commander,  
VFW Department of California.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,

March 26, 2022.

Re Department of California supports naming the Stockton Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) after the late Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret).

DEAREST CHAIRS AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS: As Commander of the Department of California Disabled American Veterans representing over 70,000 DAV Life Members in the State of California and in recognition of our fallen veterans and their survivors . . . as a department of veterans—who advocate daily for the heroes that served this nation; we sincerely support the renaming the Stockton Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) after the late Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret).

Master Sergeant Pittman, received the Medal of Honor for his Bravery for the following: While Company (I) was conducting an operation along the axis of a narrow jungle trail, the leading company elements suffered numerous casualties when they suddenly came under heavy fire from a well-concealed and numerically superior force. Hearing the engaged marines' calls for more firepower, MSgt. Pittman quickly exchanged his rifle for a machine gun and several belts of ammunition, left the relative safety of his platoon, and unhesitatingly rushed forward to aid his comrades.

Taken under intense enemy small-arms fire at point-blank range during his advance, he returned the fire, silencing the enemy position. As MSgt. Pittman continued to forge forward to aid members of the leading platoon, he again came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons which he promptly destroyed. Learning that there were additional wounded marines 50 yards further along the trail, he braved a withering hail of enemy mortar and small-arms fire to continue onward. As he reached the position where the leading marines had fallen, he was suddenly confronted with a bold frontal attack by 30 to 40 enemy.

Totally disregarding his safety, he calmly established a position in the middle of the trail and raked the advancing enemy with devastating machine-gun fire. His weapon rendered ineffective, he picked up an enemy submachine gun and, together with a pistol seized from a fallen comrade, continued his lethal fire until the enemy force had withdrawn. Having exhausted his ammunition except for a grenade which he hurled at the enemy; he then rejoined his platoon.

MSgt. Pittman's daring initiative, bold fighting spirit, and selfless devotion to duty inflicted many enemy casualties, disrupted the enemy attack, and saved the lives of many of his wounded comrades.

We feel that this is a non-controversial name—in fact, one that reflects great credit on our San Joaquin County community, and which will serve as an inspiration to the clinic's staff and to the veterans whom they will serve.

Please join me in honoring the incredible life of Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret) and signing onto the letter of support to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Thank you for your support of America's disabled veterans and their survivors.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KERR,  
Commander.  
DANIEL CONTRERAS,  
DAV National 2nd  
Vice Commander Adjutant/CEO.  
GERALD G. WILSON, Jr.,  
Legislative Director.

□ 1430

I again thank Representative McNERNEY for championing this legislation and for his hard work in helping to make this new VA clinic in San Joaquin Valley a reality. It will serve Stockton-area veterans well for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6722, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6722, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

Richard Pittman was born on May 26, 1945, in French Camp, California. At age 20, he joined the Marines. A year later, in July of 1966, Lance Corporal Pittman's unit was moving on a trail in the jungles of Vietnam when the unit ahead of his came under heavy enemy fire.

Upon hearing this, Lance Corporal Pittman took his machine gun, along with several belts of ammo, and ran toward the sound of gunfire in true Marine Corps fashion. He came under intense enemy fire but managed to continue advancing toward the Marine unit that was under attack.

Faced by dozens of enemy combatants, he forced them to retreat by using a combination of machine-gun fire, captured enemy weapons, weapons from his fellow fallen marines, and hand grenades.

Due to his courageous actions in battle, Lance Corporal Pittman, now a sergeant, was presented the Medal of Honor by President Johnson in May of 1968.

He retired as a master sergeant, after serving more than two decades in the corps. Master Sergeant Pittman's selfless devotion of duty and fighting spirit to save the lives of his wounded comrades will be truly honored by having his name on this VA clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY), my friend, the author of this legislation, who serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, when I first came to Congress, one of my ear-

liest observations was the burden of veterans in my district to get to the nearest full-service veterans' health facility. In fact, I even took the drive from Stockton, California, to Palo Alto. It took all day. It became a top priority of mine to bring veterans a facility in my district to reduce the burden of the lengthy travel for local veterans.

My son Michael, who convinced me to run for Congress in 2004, himself a veteran, once told me of all of my accomplishments in Congress, I would be the proudest of what I had done for veterans. He was absolutely right.

The VA clinic currently under construction in French Camp is one of my proudest accomplishments. As we move forward to opening its doors, it is only fitting that this facility honor a local hero.

Master Sergeant Richard A. Pittman was born in French Camp and served with heroism during the Vietnam war. As his unit was moving along a trail near the demilitarized zone, a group of marines ahead of him came under attack.

Upon hearing this, Lance Corporal Pittman rushed to the aid of his fellow comrades, successfully destroying the enemy's weapons while under heavy enemy fire. He went on to aid additional wounded marines further along the trail, fighting back an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters and forcing the enemy to withdraw.

His actions that day saved many wounded comrades and led to him being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I knew Richard Pittman personally, and he was a true patriot. He was unassuming and did not seek out attention or publicity.

My congressional district and beyond mourned his passing. It is only fitting to name this new community-based outreach clinic, or CBOC, after Master Sergeant Richard A. Pittman.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 6722 and officially designating this new facility as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6722, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6722.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA  
MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 6863) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6863

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was born December 16, 1922, in Grenada, Mississippi, then moved to Memphis, Tennessee, at age five.

(2) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and is an alumnus of Xavier University in New Orleans.

(3) Upon his graduation, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., enlisted in one of the first training programs for Black pilots, beginning his journey as a Tuskegee Airman.

(4) Within his first few years active in the war, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., named his plane "Spirit of Beale Street", in honor of his hometown, Memphis, Tennessee. He flew this plane with the "Red Tails".

(5) He was credited with shooting down German planes while protecting United States Army Air Corps bombers and shooting down two Messerschmitt 109s in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber.

(6) During his military service, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

(7) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., received numerous honors and awards throughout his long and distinguished career.

(8) Among them, he was presented with an Air Medal with 7 clusters and an American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal during his military service.

(9) Following the war, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., returned to Memphis, receiving a hero's welcome and a key to the city.

(10) On July 13, 1947, he married LaVerne Nailling at St. Therese-Little Flowers Catholic Church in Memphis.

(11) In 1960, he accepted a job with the Federal Aviation Administration (hereinafter, the "FAA") as an air traffic control specialist in Anchorage, Alaska.

(12) In 1965, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., moved back to Memphis, becoming the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

(13) Weathers later held positions with the FAA in Atlanta, Georgia, and the District of Columbia, where he eventually retired in 1985, after serving as a reservist in the military for 23 years.

(14) During retirement, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and continued to support African Americans in the military.

(15) In 1995, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., moved to Tucson, Arizona, shortly after marrying Jacqueline Moore Weathers.

(16) In 2007, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., and the Tuskegee Airmen were honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

(17) On October 15, 2011, Luke Joseph Weather, Jr., died in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 90, leaving behind his wife, two sons and daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren as well as a legacy of countless lives he touched.

(18) On January 20, 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER.

The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Memphis, Ten-

nessee, shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center". Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such medical center shall be considered to be a reference to the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 6863.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., a combat fighter pilot with the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the first ever African-American air traffic controller in Memphis, and a trailblazing advocate for African Americans' military service.

The bill before us, H.R. 6863, would appropriately name the VA's medical center in Memphis, Tennessee, the Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers embodied service to country in a way that we all can admire. Born in 1922 in Mississippi, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers moved to Memphis, Tennessee, at age 5, the place he would call home for decades after.

After graduating from Xavier University in 1942, Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis where he read a newspaper article about the newly created aviation cadet program in Tuskegee, Alabama, one of the first such programs in the country meant for aspiring African-American pilots.

Despite the racial discrimination he endured, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers secured a one-on-one meeting with Memphis political boss E.H. Crump, who personally recommended Weathers' nomination to the Tuskegee program to President Roosevelt. From there, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers began his distinguished military service, fighting as a combat pilot among the legendary Red Tails during World War II.

His noble accomplishments during the war included shooting down two German planes while protecting U.S. Army Air Corps bombers and shooting down two additional enemy aircraft in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber.

Even after the war, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers' service to his country continued. In 1960, he became an air

traffic control specialist with the Federal Aviation Administration, and soon after he became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers retired in 1985, all the while serving as a reservist in the military for 23 years. In retirement, he advocated tirelessly on behalf of African Americans in the military, paving the way for generations of citizens to serve this country honorably, just as he did.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers' lifetime of service earned him multiple honors and awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007, alongside 300 surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers passed away in October 2011. Today, he and the Tuskegee Airmen continue to be a symbol of justice, determination, and solidarity, ideals which embody the very best of this country.

The naming of the Memphis VA Medical Center in Lieutenant Colonel Weather's honor is a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6863 from The American Legion, the VFW, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Tennessee delegations of the House and Senate.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,

Nashville, TN, February 22, 2022.

Hon. STEVE COHEN,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COHEN: Please accept this letter as a demonstration of the total support of the American Legion Department of Tennessee, in recognition of renaming the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee as "Lieutenant Colonel "Luke" Weathers Veterans Medical Center."

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers was a Grenada Mississippi native and was the first-ever black Air Traffic Controller in Memphis. Lieutenant Colonel Weathers was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airman from 1942 to 1945.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew 15,000 missions over North Africa and Europe during the Second World War. Luke downed two German fighter planes that attacked Army Air Force Bombers that he had been charged with escorting.

Lt Colonel Weathers, like other Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, conducted missions throughout Northern Africa and Europe for allied Forces and when Lt Colonel Weathers returned to Memphis from the war in 1945, he was presented with a parade down Beale Street and with the job opportunities for a star black pilot were scarce and Luke Weathers was fortunate to obtain a job as the first black air traffic controller at the FAA in Memphis.

The American Legion Department of Tennessee would like to honor his amazing legacy of service to God, Country, his fellow veterans, and his community of Memphis, TN with our full support and we wholeheartedly support and encourage the committee to sponsor and support legislation naming the new Aurora Veterans Clinic after this distinguished WWII Veteran.

On behalf of the 20,000 members of The American Legion in Tennessee I am proud to fully, endorse this effort.

Sincerely,  
LARRY V. KERSEY,  
Commander, The American Legion,  
Department of Tennessee.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
DISTRICT 10,

Shelby County, TN, February 18, 2022.

To Congressman STEVE COHEN,  
Via VFW Tennessee Department Commander  
Bryan Walker  
Subject Renaming Memphis VA Medical Center

It is with great pleasure that I write to tell you that our members support the renaming of the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center after the late Tuskegee Airman, FAA Air Traffic Control Specialist, and Memphis Civil Rights Pioneer, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr.

Very Respectfully,

KAPELL EUGENE,  
District 10 Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,  
March 17, 2022.

To Congressman STEVE COHEN,  
Re Renaming Memphis VA Medical Center

It is with great pleasure that the membership of the Department of Tennessee, Veterans of Foreign Wars supports the renaming of the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center after the late Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., a Tuskegee Airman, FAA Air Traffic Control Specialist and Memphis Civil Rights Pioneer.

BRIAN WALKER,  
Department Commander.  
JOHN SCOTT,  
Department Adjutant/  
Quartermaster.  
KAPELL EUGENE,  
District 10 Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,  
Lawrenceburg, TN, December 21, 2021.

Re Support Legislation in Naming the Memphis VAMC After Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr.

Congressman MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BOST: Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Tennessee, with its membership of over 17,600 Veterans; wishes to support a legislative initiative by Congressman Steve Cohen in naming the Memphis VA Medical Center after Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. Lt. Col. Weathers flew as one of the original Tuskegee Airman with the "Red Tails" during World War II and later returned to Memphis, Tennessee to work in aviation and serve as a mentor to many in the military and aviation communities. Weathers, who died in October in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 90, was credited with shooting down two Messerschmitt 109's in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber in 1944. He returned to a parade in his honor in his home town of Memphis in 1945 and was given the keys to the city.

DAV Department of Tennessee's membership would appreciate your support in honoring Lt. Col. Weathers by naming the Memphis, Tennessee VA Medical Center after him. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL L. HARMAN, II,  
Commander, Department of Tennessee,  
Disabled American Veterans.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, March 15, 2022.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: Please accept this letter as a demonstration of our support for H.R. 6863, a bill that would designate the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Memphis, Tennessee as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. was born in Grenada, Mississippi and moved to Memphis, Tennessee when he was five. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis and Xavier University in New Orleans. He then enlisted in a training program for Black pilots, beginning his journey as a Tuskegee Airman in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Weathers flew with the "Red Tails" in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He served with distinction, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and receiving numerous honors and awards throughout his career.

At the end of the Second World War, Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis where he received a hero's welcome and a key to the city. He participated in a war bond effort, raising \$1.5 million, the most raised by any African American Group. In honor of this achievement, a B-24 Liberator was named "Spirit of Beale Street."

Weathers began a career as an Air Traffic Control Specialist and in 1965 became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis. Throughout his life, he remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and was a mentor to countless youth who had an interest in the military or aviation.

It is fitting to have the Memphis VAMC to be named after a veteran with such a distinguished career and who represents the city so well. We are proud to support this effort.

Sincerely,

TIM BURCHETT,  
JIM COOPER,  
SCOTT DESJARLAIS,  
MARK E. GREEN, MD,  
DIANA HARSHBARGER,  
DAVID KUSTOFF,  
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,  
JOHN ROSE,

Members of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,  
Washington, DC, June 24, 2022.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write to express our support for H.R. 6863, a bill that would name the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Memphis, Tennessee the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. was born in Grenada, Mississippi and moved to Memphis, Tennessee at age five. Upon his graduation from Booker T. Washington High School and Xavier University, he enlisted in a training program for African-American pilots. Upon completion, he began his career as a Tuskegee Airman in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Weathers flew with the "Red Tails" in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He was decorated with honors and awards throughout his career. For his exemplary service, Weathers rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Lt. Col. Weathers received a hero's welcome and a key to the city upon his return

to Memphis following World War II. He then raised \$1.5 million in a war bond effort—the most of any African-American Group. A B-24 Liberator was named the "Spirit of Beale Street" to honor this great achievement.

In 1965, Lt. Col. Weathers became the first African-American air traffic controller in Memphis. He would spend the rest of his career as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. He remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. throughout his life and mentored countless youth with interests in the military or aviation.

It is fitting to have the Memphis VAMC named after a veteran with such a distinguished career, who embodied the spirit of the Volunteer State. We wholeheartedly support this effort.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,  
U.S. Senator.  
BILL HAGERTY,  
U.S. Senator.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6863, a bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, the Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was born on December 16, 1922, in Grenada, Mississippi, but called Memphis his home from an early age.

Upon graduating from college, Luke Weathers joined a newly organized Army Air Corps training program. While there, he earned his pilot wings and commission as a second lieutenant and began his journey as a Tuskegee Airman.

Lieutenant Weathers flew with the Red Tails in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for escorting and defending a damaged B-24 bomber against eight German fighters in November of 1944. He shot down two of them.

Luke Weathers rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in a distinguished and highly rewarded military career.

He began a second career as an air traffic control specialist, and in 1965, he became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

Throughout his life, he remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen and was a mentor to countless youth who had an interest in the military or aviation fields.

I cannot think of an individual more deserving to represent the VA presence in Memphis.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), my very good friend, who is the author of this legislation. He serves on the Committee on the Judiciary as chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Subcommittee. He also serves on

the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 6863, to name the Memphis VA hospital in honor of a true World War II hero and a hero in American life, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr.

I didn't know of Lieutenant Colonel Weathers until his passing, and I read about his passing in the Memphis newspaper, the Commercial Appeal, and I went and attended his funeral at St. Theresa Little Flower Church, where he was a member. I think he integrated the church. The church is a large church and it was packed.

In spite of the fact that he had moved to retire to Arizona, possibly in Tucson, maybe 15 or 20 years earlier, the people knew Lieutenant Colonel Weathers, they knew his work, they knew his good deeds in the community, and they knew his actions. I was honored to be at that funeral, and I thought this man is something else.

It has been well documented what he did with his life and with the Tuskegee Airmen and the Red Tails and the several airplanes he shot down.

There is a movie coming out now that is getting a lot of advertisement, and all Members of Congress have been invited to see this week, called "Devotion," about an African-American pilot who was a star in the Korean war.

It was Lieutenant Colonel Weathers and the Tuskegee Airmen who were the predecessors of that gentleman's opportunity to defend his country and to show his skills. That is another reason why his name at the veterans hospital will be so important, to inspire people to go into a military career and pursue aviation, which Lieutenant Colonel Weathers encouraged people to do, particularly African-American young men.

I was also honored to attend his funeral. It was a funeral with a flyover, military caisson, and "Taps," as befitting a gentleman who had served his country as he did.

His family is very strong in Memphis in support of their father's legacy. I met them in St. Theresa Little Flower Church at his funeral in 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers paved the way for many to become pilots, and his legacy endures in the countless lives that he touched.

I thank our Tennessee delegation who unanimously supported this legislation and this naming of the new Memphis VA Medical Center. It was also endorsed by The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I thank Chairman TAKANO, Ranking Member BOST, and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for advancing the bill through committee and bringing it to the floor today. I

thank Mr. HOYER for his help with that, too.

We have done a good thing today to honor a true American hero. I think fondly of him. I had commissioned a plaque to be created and installed at the Memphis airport recognizing his service in the Federal Aviation Administration and integrating that facility. I am honored I will be a part of keeping his memory alive forever.

□ 1445

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be associated with the passage of this bill to honor Lieutenant Colonel Weathers. I have the distinction of representing the University of California, Riverside, where resides the Tuskegee Airmen Archives.

I am reminded by the Speaker's presence on the dais and the presence of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) that you are both veterans and that serving our veterans and remembering our veterans is not about two colors. It is not about red or blue, but it is about red, white, and blue, and that all colors of America have fought for the three colors, and they bled one color.

It is important for us to remember the poignancy of our segregated fighting units of World War II, the last war in which we had segregated fighting units, and mark the progress that this country has made and that we must continue to make, so it is fitting that I call on all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6863.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6863.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER W. DILLARD VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7903) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7903

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama.

(2) In 1945, following basic training he was drafted and was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks, attaining Technical Sergeant.

(3) Dillard successfully completed the Officer Candidate School (OCS) selection process and was approved for attendance at the Infantry OCS at Fort Benning in January 1947. He received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry after graduating from Infantry OCS in July 1947 and was the honor graduate of his Infantry officers basic course.

(4) He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

(5) During his service, Dillard graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 1958, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class. After CGSC, he completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Omaha leveraging his earlier studies at Tuskegee Institute.

(6) In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so. He graduated at the top of his class.

(7) MG Dillard's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star (two awards), the Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Vietnam Distinguished Service Order (1st and 2d Class). Dillard also received two civilian awards from the Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Rural Revolutionary Development Medal and the Vietnam Ethnic Development Service Medal (1st Class).

(8) Dillard was inducted into the United States Army's Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 2012, the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 2012, and the Alabama Military Hall of Honor in 2013.

(9) He died in Canton, Michigan, in 2015, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN CANTON, MICHIGAN.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7903, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Major General Oliver William Dillard, Sr., a decorated soldier, an exemplary Army intelligence officer, and a pioneer for other Black and minority military leaders.

I thank my colleague, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for introducing this bill, H.R. 7903, as amended, which will designate the VA outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Originally from Margaret, Alabama, deep in the Jim Crow South, Major General Dillard enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute at age 15 shortly after the famed Tuskegee Airmen program was established. He was a proud ROTC cadet and student instructor at Tuskegee and an exceptional student as well.

Major General Dillard postponed his academic studies, however, after being drafted into the U.S. military in 1945. He completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and was sent to Bavaria, Germany, where he served as an administrative specialist in the Army's 349th Field Artillery Group during World War II.

Following the war, Major General Dillard chose to remain in the Army. He completed Officer Candidate School and was assigned to the all-Black 356th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

He served admirably throughout five campaigns in the Korean war and graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1958 as one of only three Black officers in his class.

Major General Dillard later assisted a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Monrovia, Liberia, before returning to the United States and working as a senior intelligence officer in Washington, D.C.

In 1964, he became the first Black officer to attend the Army's prestigious National War College and was selected to command a battalion of the 5th Combat Support Training Brigade at Fort Dix.

He served honorably with the U.S. Military Assistance Command during the Vietnam war, and upon his return he was promoted to brigadier general, making him just the fifth Black flag officer in U.S. Army history.

Major General Dillard went on to serve posts at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; and Heidelberg, Germany, before retiring from the Army after a 34-year career in 1980.

He remained committed to advancement opportunities for Black and minority officers in his retirement and was a steadfast advocate for equality within all branches of the Armed Forces, supporting the overturning of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy for LGBTQ servicemembers before it was officially repealed in 2011.

For his dutiful service to this Nation, Major General Dillard received nine

military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with a star.

Veterans who receive care at the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, should feel honored to enter a facility bearing Major General Dillard's name. I know we, as Members of Congress, are profoundly honored and grateful for his service to our country as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 7903, as amended, from The American Legion, VFW, and DAV, as well as the Michigan delegation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 27, 2022.

HON. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

HON. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama, and began a distinguished career of service in 1945 when he was first drafted and assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group following basic training. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks.

In January 1947, Mr. Dillard was accepted to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so.

Throughout Major General Dillard's distinguished service career, he held various esteemed positions and received many military and civilian awards. He served as the first black General Officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Mr. Dillard retired in 1980 from military service—US Army as a Major General after 34 years of service and resided in Canton, Michigan, where he later passed.

It is in recognition of this barrier breaking service to his country that we express our support for renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton, Michigan in his honor. We appreciate your time and consideration of this of this important matter. We look forward to working with you to recognize the life and service of Major General Dillard.

Sincerely,

HALEY M. STEVENS, BRENDA L. LAWRENCE, DANIEL T. KILDEE, ELISSA SLOTKIN, RASHIDA TLAIB, DEBBIE DINGELL, BILL HUIZENGA, PETER MELJER, TIM WALBERG, FRED UPTON, ANDY LEVIN, LISA C. MCCLAIN, JACK BERGMAN, JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Members of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 12, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.  
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE BOST,  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of H.R. 7903, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic."

Major General Dillard began his career 34 year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group. In 1947, he attended the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of infantry, and served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities in the military throughout his life, including as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his 34 years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until his passing in 2015. In recognition of Mr. Dillard's exemplary service to his country, we express our strong support for renaming the Canton, Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in his honor and ask for the Committee's consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE STABENOW,  
U.S. Senator.  
GARY C. PETERS,  
U.S. Senator.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Submitted By Department Legislative Committee

Subject Naming the Canton V.A. CBOC

RESOLUTION 22-17

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. lived in Canton, Michigan at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served in the United States Army and retired as a Major General after 34 years; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, the last J2 (senior Intelligence officer) for the U.S. Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, the first U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and the first black Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence for the U.S. Army Europe; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the fifth black officer in the U.S. Army to attain the flag rank; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the first black graduate of the National War College in 1965; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, via DEC email vote on April 8, 2022, supports the efforts of Michigan Congressional Representative Haley Stevens to name the V.A. Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan, the Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,  
Lansing, MI, May 4, 2022.

Representative HALEY STEVENS,  
Washington, DC.

TO THE HON. REPRESENTATIVE HALEY STEVENS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan enthusiastically supports the renaming of the VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan to be the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

Major General Oliver W. Dillard Senior's 34 years of exemplary service to our Nation cannot be understated, and the renaming of this facility is a small step towards recognizing his incredible service to our Nation. Through the renaming of this facility, our Nation can begin to express its gratitude for all he represented for his accomplishments during his service and in breaking down barriers for African American service members: his graduation as the first African American from the National War College in 1965; being selected as the first African American U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and being recognized in the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame just to name a few.

We thank you for your endurance of bringing this task to our attention allowing us to recognize those who served our Nation honorably.

KEVIN A. CONKLIN,  
State Commander,  
Veterans of Foreign  
Wars, Department of  
Michigan.

DEREK BLUMKE,  
State Adjutant &  
Quartermaster,  
Veterans of Foreign  
Wars, Department of  
Michigan.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,  
Fraser, Michigan, April 28, 2022.

The Office of Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan supports Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS' initiative to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

The DAV Department of Michigan believes naming the Canton Outpatient Clinic in honor of General Dillard is a fitting tribute to his dedication to duty and selfless sacrifices over a lifetime of service to our country. General Dillard is not only an inspiration to all of us who have served, but also to generations of future veterans that will answer our nations call.

Sincerely,

PAUL KAISER,  
Adjutant,  
DAV Department of Michigan.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and all Members of the Michigan delegation for their initiative on this bill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7903, as amended, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard began his 34-year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the post-World War II army of occupation.

In 1947, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a second lieutenant. He then went on to serve in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities until his retirement in 1980. Not only did he break down numerous barriers over his career, but he held various esteemed positions, earned military medals, to include the Silver and Bronze Stars, and multiple civilian awards.

By naming the VA clinic in Canton after this officer who served with such distinction and sacrifice, the many veterans who will see his name will no doubt be inspired by his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who understands so many of these issues.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 7903, legislation to designate the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

I thank my colleague, HALEY STEVENS, for her leadership and for listening to all the veterans and getting this piece of legislation to the floor today. She has listened to them. We will shortly share this facility. It will be in my district, but the veterans will live in both of our districts.

The recent opening of a new community-based outpatient clinic in Canton reaffirms our commitment to Michigan veterans so that they can access the care and support that they need closer to home. It will serve many veterans in southeast Michigan.

This legislation would rename the Canton CBOC in honor of Major Gen-

eral Oliver W. Dillard, a veteran and a trailblazer who served the Nation for 34 years.

After being drafted to Germany to serve in World War II, Major General Dillard went on to be the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. Throughout his esteemed career, he earned nine military awards and two civilian medals.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until he passed. The veterans themselves from this community and beyond wanted this center to be named after him.

I am so proud to have worked on this important bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Representative STEVENS. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

My colleague and I were there when it had the soft opening. If you could have seen his family and his colleagues, the veterans he served with, with tears in their eyes, you would know why this has meaning.

I thank the Michigan delegation for supporting this effort, and I thank leadership for advancing this to the floor.

Naming the Canton clinic after Major General Dillard means his story and life will continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), another very good friend, who is the author of this legislation. She serves on the Education and Labor Committee, on which I also serve, and as the chairwoman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the heroes who have gone before us and the heroes who walk among us, our veterans. It is also an honor to be here with my legislation under the great leadership of the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who leads us so well here in the Congress.

I rise in support of my bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard was a trailblazer who exemplified what it means to be an exceptional serviceman. He began his 34-year military career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation.

Following his time in Europe, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as second lieutenant of infantry. In following years, he continued to climb the ladder.

In 1958, Major General Dillard graduated from the Army Command and

General Staff College, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class.

In 1965, Major General Dillard made history by becoming the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. He later served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, a most remarkable career.

This includes as the first Black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, as deputy chief of staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and as deputy chief of staff of intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe.

During his extraordinary 34 years of service, Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with star.

He retired from military service in 1980 and later passed away in 2015 in Canton, Michigan, where this VA outpatient clinic will reside and where his son, Oliver, still resides.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of touring this facility alongside the Dillard family, with my incredible colleague and champion for this legislation, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who will be representing Canton in this upcoming Congress.

The naming of the Canton VA clinic is just a small token of our appreciation and recognition to Major General Dillard for his exemplary service, leadership, and sacrifice to our Nation.

I know that this VA clinic will serve as a proud commemoration of the man who dedicated his life to serving others and as an inspiration to those who will continue to hear his name.

I thank both the Dillard family—in specific, his son, Oliver—and Congresswoman DINGELL for their work and input on this legislation.

I also thank Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak for her leadership in getting the VA outpatient clinic to its current place.

I also thank our entire Michigan delegation, as well as the Michigan American Legion, the Michigan Disabled American Veterans, and the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their support on this bill.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I am going to go off script for a moment here and just say that the more I hear about these veterans that we are honoring here today, they are just incredible. I want to know more about Major General Dillard and his Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Purple Heart.

As we are on the heels of Veterans Day this last weekend, the remarkable bravery that General Dillard must

have shown to receive those awards is staggering, and I would like to come up and see the clinic in Michigan at some point just to honor the man and meet his family.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I share the sentiment of my colleague from Texas. You cannot be indifferent to the stories as we read the accounts of these great American heroes. I am personally affected by the part of Major General Dillard's history in terms of his opposition to Don't Ask, Don't Tell way before it was overturned. The fact that he himself knew the sting of discrimination and could not brook that this discrimination would apply to any other group of Americans is especially poignant to me.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for bringing Major General Dillard to our attention to memorialize him in the way that she has done.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7903, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7903, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of H.R. 7903 was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the 'Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SY KAPLAN VETERANS CENTER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7925) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan Veterans Center", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7925

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Seymour "Sy" Kaplan was born on February 28, 1924.

(2) Sergeant Kaplan served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 as a combat engineer.

(3) Sergeant Kaplan served in the 2d, 4th, and 14th Armored Divisions, seeing service in North Africa, Italy, and France.

(4) Sergeant Kaplan rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned 3 Battle Stars and 2 Purple Hearts.

(5) Sergeant Kaplan served under General George Patton at the Battle of the Bulge and received 2 Purple Hearts for his service.

(6) In April 1945, Sergeant Kaplan was grievously wounded in an enemy mortar attack in Czechoslovakia and returned to the United States a wounded warrior.

(7) Sergeant Kaplan served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 78 (Coachella Valley) for many years.

(8) Sergeant Kaplan was instrumental in the opening of the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Palm Desert.

(9) Sergeant Kaplan personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining their earned Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

(10) Sergeant Kaplan received the Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2001.

(11) Wilson also appointed Sergeant Kaplan the first chair of the Desert Palms Community Council.

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 7925, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Technical Sergeant Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, a wounded warrior, a World War II veteran, and a decades-long advocate for other veterans living in the Coachella Valley of southern California.

I thank my colleague, a fellow Californian and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. RAUL RUIZ, for his work on this bill, which will designate a brand-new VA outpatient clinic in Palm Desert, California, the Sy Kaplan VA Clinic.

The state-of-the-art Palm Desert clinic provides primary care, behavioral health services, and preventative medicine to thousands of veterans in the Inland Empire as part of VA's Loma Linda Healthcare System.

Sergeant Kaplan enlisted in the military in 1942 and served overseas as a combat engineer in northern Africa, Italy, and France. He fought under

General Patton in the Battle of the Bulge, which helped ensure Allied victory in the Second World War. In 1945, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar attack during a bridge-building mission in Czechoslovakia.

For his heroism, Sergeant Kaplan earned three battle stars and two Purple Hearts and returned home 100 percent disabled.

His injuries did not impede Sergeant Kaplan's unwavering commitment to our Nation's veterans, however. For 25 years, he served as commander of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in the Coachella Valley. In this role, Sergeant Kaplan assisted countless veterans, helping ease their transition back to civilian life and providing them with a tight-knit sense of community.

His passion, leadership, and sense of purpose were evident to all who knew him.

Following a lifetime of service, Sergeant Kaplan passed away in April 2019, not long after celebrating his 95th birthday. His legacy continues, however, in the grateful community of those whose lives he touched.

I am happy to know that for generations of veterans to come, this VA facility will honor Sergeant Kaplan's memory.

H.R. 7925, as amended, has been endorsed by The American Legion, DAV, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 1925 from The American Legion, VFW, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the California delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,  
Sanger, CA, July 18, 2022.

Hon. RAUL RUIZ, M.D.,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RUIZ: On behalf of The American Legion, Department of California, we thank you for your continued leadership in advocating for the more than 120,000 veterans living in Riverside County. TAL Department of California is proud to support your legislation, designating the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the, Sy Kaplan Veterans Center".

By naming the Palm Desert outpatient clinic after United States Army Technical Sergeant, Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, not only memorializes his contributions and sacrifices made fighting in North Africa, Italy and France during World War II, but also underscores his significant contributions towards Veterans Advocacy in the Palm Desert area. This advocacy was instrumental in the opening of the very VA clinic your legislation hopes to name after him.

Thank you again for your leadership and advocacy of all veterans. TAL Department of California recognizes all the work that went into this effort and wholeheartedly supports this legislation. Moreover, we hope this bill will be passed and signed into law most expeditiously.

Sincerely,

JERE ROMANO, COMMANDER,  
The American Legion Department  
of California.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
June 6, 2022.

Rep. RAUL RUIZ,  
Washington DC.

DEAR HON. REPRESENTATIVE RUIZ, MD: The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California takes great pleasure in supporting your bill to name the VA's Outpatient Clinic building in Palm Desert, CA as the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sergeant Kaplan's service to our country in WWII is impressive. He not only gave his all during his service, but he also continued that back at home in service to veterans and with the same commitment. His legacy is worthy of and in line with this Department's desires to pay honor to our servicemen and women by naming California veteran facilities after them.

On behalf of the 61,000+ combat veterans of this Department, we thank you for recognizing our nation's heroes.

Sincerely,

DAWN M. NAPIER,  
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
San Diego, CA, December 5, 2021.

Hon. RAUL RUIZ M.D.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RUIZ: I am writing this letter of endorsement to rename the Desert Clinic the Seymour (Sy) Kaplan Desert Clinic. This is an Honor he richly deserves. Mr. Kaplan, a force to be reckoned with, was the catalyst in the establishment of the clinic. His tireless commitment to all veterans was inspiring. A highly decorated war hero, Mr. Kaplan spent a lifetime giving to the veteran community, not only in the desert community but the State of California.

I thank you in advance for all your consideration in this matter.

NANCY CASEY,  
Department of California DAV, Jr. Vice  
Commander, National Service Officer,  
Disabled American Veterans.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S.  
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: We write in support of H.R. 7925, legislation to rename the Palm Desert Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic after Sy Kaplan.

Sy Kaplan served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 as a combat engineer. He rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned three Battle Stars and two Purple Hearts. In April 1945 he was grievously wounded in an enemy mortar attack in Czechoslovakia and returned to the U.S. a wounded warrior.

When he retired, Mr. Kaplan served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 78 (Coachella Valley) for many years, where he personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining their earned VA benefits. Additionally, he was instrumental in the opening of the VA Clinic in Palm Desert which we wish to name in his honor.

Mr. Kaplan was recognized for his work within his community and received the Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2001 and was appointed the first chair of the Desert Palms Community Council.

We hope that you will swiftly advance H.R. 7925 to recognize this true war hero and pillar of the community by supporting our bill

to rename the Palm Desert VA outpatient clinic the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sincerely,

Raul Ruiz, M.D., Dianne Feinstein, Alex Padilla, Kevin McCarthy, Mark Takano, Jared Huffman, Ami Bera, M.D., Nancy Pelosi, Doug LaMalfa, Mike Thompson, Jay Obernolte, Jerry McNerney, Mark DeSaulnier, Jackie Speier, Jim Costa, Anna G. Eshoo, Josh Harder, Barbara Lee, Eric Swalwell, Ro Khanna, Zoe Lofgren; Members of Congress.

Salud Carbajal, Brad Sherman, Grace F. Napolitano, Karen Bass, Ken Calvert, Judy Chu, Pete Aguilar, Norma J. Torres, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Katie Porter, J. Luis Correa, Michelle Steel, Juan Vargas, Darrell Issa, Linda T. Sanchez, Alan S. Lowenthal, Mike Levin, Scott H. Peters, David G. Valadao, Doris Matsui; Members of Congress.

Jimmy Gomez, Mike Garcia, Adam B. Schiff, John Garamendi, Maxine Waters, Jimmy Panetta, Ted Lieu, Tony Cardenas, Tom McClintock, Young Kim, Julia Brownley, Connie Conway; Members of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Dr. RUIZ and all of our fellow members of the California delegation for their support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7925, as amended, a bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert California as the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sy Kaplan enlisted in the Army at age 18. He served in World War II as a combat engineer in the 2nd, 4th, and 14th Armored Divisions during the North Africa campaign and the liberation of Italy and in France. In that service, he earned three battle stars and two Purple Hearts. He rose to the rank of technical sergeant.

At the end of the war, in 1945, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar attack in the former Czechoslovakia and returned to the United States due to his injuries.

Following his return, he started and operated his own construction company. He retired in 1991 and moved to California, as everybody did.

Sergeant Kaplan embraced his new community, where he personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining and earning their VA benefits.

He served as the commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in Coachella Valley for many years, and, of course, he played an instrumental role in establishing the VA clinic in Palm Desert.

Sergeant Kaplan dedicated his life to service and, most importantly, to helping his fellow veterans. Having his name on this VA clinic will continue his legacy of inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7925, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7925, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the 'Sy Kaplan VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### MAX CLELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3369) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3369

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born August 24, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, the child of Juanita Kesler Cleland and Joseph Hughie Cleland, a World War II veteran, and grew up in Lithonia, Georgia.

(2) Joseph Maxwell Cleland graduated from Stetson University in Florida in 1964, and received his Master's Degree in history from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

(3) Following his graduation from Stetson University, Joseph Maxwell Cleland received a Second Lieutenant's Commission in the Army through its Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(4) Joseph Maxwell Cleland volunteered for duty in the Vietnam War in 1967, serving with the 1st Cavalry Division.

(5) On April 8, 1968, during combat at the mountain base at Khe Sanh, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was gravely injured by the blast of a grenade, eventually losing both his legs and right arm.

(6) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

(7) In 1970, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member and the only Vietnam veteran, where he served until 1975.

(8) As a Georgia State Senator, Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored and advanced legislation to ensure access to public facilities in Georgia for elderly and handicapped individuals.

(9) In 1976, Joseph Maxwell Cleland began serving as a staffer on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the United States Senate.

(10) In 1977, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Veterans Administration.

(11) He was the youngest Administrator of the Veterans Administration ever and the first Vietnam veteran to head the agency.

(12) He served as a champion for veterans and led the Veterans Administration to recognize, and begin to treat, post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans suffering the invisible wounds of war.

(13) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected in 1982 as Secretary of State of Georgia, the youngest individual to hold the office, and served in that position for 14 years.

(14) In 1996, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the United States Senate representing Georgia.

(15) As a member of the Committee on Armed Services, Joseph Maxwell Cleland advocated for Georgia's military bases, members of the Armed Forces, and veterans, including by championing key personnel issues, playing a critical role in the effort to allow members of the Armed Forces to pass their GI Bill education benefits to their children, and establishing a new veterans cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

(16) In 2002, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed to the 9/11 Commission.

(17) In 2003, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Directors for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he served until 2007.

(18) In 2009, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Barack Obama as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission overseeing United States military cemeteries and monuments overseas, where he served until 2017.

(19) In 2010, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, where he served until 2017.

(20) Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored three books: *Strong at the Broken Places*, *Going for the Max: 12 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest*, and *Heart of a Patriot*.

(21) Joseph Maxwell Cleland received numerous honors and awards over the course of his long and distinguished career.

(22) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was a patriot, veteran, and lifelong civil servant who proudly served Georgia, the United States, and all veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(23) On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79, Joseph Maxwell Cleland died, leaving behind a legacy of service, sacrifice, and joy.

#### SEC. 3. JOSEPH MAXWELL CLELAND ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" or the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 3369.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for S. 3369, a bill that will appropriately rename the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia, in honor of Joseph Maxwell Cleland, an Army veteran, an American statesman, and a distinguished public servant for more than 50 years.

Senator Cleland, who died a year ago this month, long displayed a commitment to assisting disabled American veterans, so it is fitting that part of his enduring legacy includes the naming of this facility, which provides care to so many Georgia men and women who raised their hands and answered the call to serve.

I thank Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK for championing this legislation, which unanimously passed the Senate this summer, and I also acknowledge the work of my colleague Representative NIKEMA WILLIAMS for introducing a House companion to the bill.

Senator Cleland was born in Atlanta in 1942 and raised a couple of hours away in Lithonia, Georgia. He was an exemplary student at Lithonia High School and went on to study American history at Stetson University in central Florida and Emory University in Atlanta.

Senator Cleland received a military commission through Stetson's ROTC program. He volunteered for service in the Vietnam war in 1967 and was promoted to Army captain.

On April 8, 1968, with a month left on his tour, Senator Cleland and other members of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment were dropped by helicopter on a hillside outside Khe Sanh to set up a radio relay station. Senator Cleland reached down to pick up a grenade he thought had fallen from his flak jacket when the grenade exploded, causing several injuries to his lower body. Both of Senator Cleland's legs and his right forearm were amputated, and the Senator, then just 25 years old, used a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

For his meritorious service and gallantry in action, Senator Cleland was awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars.

Upon his return to the U.S., Senator Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate, becoming the youngest member and only Vietnam veteran in that body.

In 1976, he was appointed to the staff of the U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he investigated hospitals in the Veterans Administration healthcare system and their treatment of wounded servicemembers returning from Vietnam.

The following year, at age 34, President Carter tapped Senator Cleland to head the Veterans Administration,

making him the youngest administrator in VA history and the first Vietnam veteran to serve in this role.

As VA administrator, Senator Cleland was instrumental in creating the Vet Center program, which decades later still provides a wide range of counseling services to veterans who experience trauma, loss, grief, and pain as a result of their military service. In doing so, Senator Cleland saved and improved the lives of an untold number of veterans. He advanced the conversation around the unseen wounds of war and helped reduce the stigma that all too often surrounds a veteran who seeks needed mental health care.

Following 12 years of service as Georgia's Secretary of State, Senator Cleland was elected to the United States Senate in 1996.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Cleland continued to be a forceful advocate for veterans and sought to improve military recruitment and retention, pay, and compensation, and pension and health benefits.

He played a critical role in the effort to allow former servicemembers to pass unused GI Bill benefits on to their dependent children, an initiative that has given generations of veteran families the opportunity to receive an affordable education.

Following his electoral defeat in 2002, Senator Cleland was appointed to the 9/11 Commission but resigned shortly thereafter and was critical of the George W. Bush administration's lack of transparency regarding key documents and government witnesses the Commission requested.

In 2009, President Obama selected Senator Cleland to lead the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent government agency that manages 26 American cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments, and markers abroad.

For those who have not visited any of these sites, I highly recommend that you do so.

□ 1515

This past Memorial Day, I led a congressional delegation to two ABMC cemeteries: the North Africa American Cemetery in Tunisia and the Cambridge American Cemetery in the United Kingdom. These sites serve as a solemn reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation during the First and Second World Wars, and they truly uphold the words of General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I and the first chairman of the ABMC who promised that, through these monuments, "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

It is my hope that the same will be true in naming this hospital, one of the largest in the VA healthcare system, in Senator Cleland's memory.

S. 3369 has been strongly endorsed by The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Vet-

erans, and I implore all of my colleagues to pass this bill today without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Senator WARNOCK and Representative WILLIAMS for proposing this legislation and for their tireless work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3369, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, as the Max Cleland VA Medical Center.

Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born in 1942 in Atlanta, Georgia. Through his storied career, he always returned to his native State. Immediately after college, Max Cleland received his second lieutenant's commission in the Army. He volunteered for duty in the Vietnam war, serving with the 1st Cavalry Division.

In 1968, during the Battle of Khe Sanh, then-Captain Cleland, upon landing on a nearby hill to set up a radio relay station, was gravely injured by an accidental blast of a team member's grenade. He eventually lost both legs and his right arm.

While serving, he earned the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action, in addition to the Purple Heart.

Returning to his home State, Max Cleland continued his service and was elected to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member and then the only Vietnam veteran. He became known as a staunch advocate for increasing public access for handicapped individuals as well as for his fellow veterans.

In 1977, Max Cleland was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Veterans Administration, the first Vietnam veteran to lead the agency. He was instrumental in transforming the way the Veterans Administration recognized and treated post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war. After that assignment, he served as the secretary of state for Georgia for 14 years, and then he was elected to the United States Senate representing Georgia.

In this position, and in numerous subsequent assignments, he never forgot his fellow brothers and sisters in arms. He made it his life's work to champion military personnel matters and to honor the fallen at military cemeteries and monuments overseas and veteran cemeteries at home.

In spite of many physical challenges, Max Cleland received numerous honors and awards over the course of his long and distinguished career.

His spirit served as an inspiration, and that same spirit will continue to inspire excellence at the Atlanta VA Medical Center which should proudly bear his name.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Geor-

gia (Mr. BISHOP). Chairman SANFORD BISHOP is a very good friend who serves as a subcommittee chair on the Appropriations Committee. He is a cardinal and also a former member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

This is a wonderful opportunity for me to come and to congratulate the chair, my colleague, Senator WARNOCK, and my colleague, NIKEMA WILLIAMS, for the naming of the VA Medical Center of Atlanta the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Senator Cleland and I were friends. He was my friend, he was my mentor, and he was truly an inspiration.

I had the opportunity to know him. He served as secretary of state for the State of Georgia for 12 years. During that time, I was in the Georgia General Assembly. When he was elected to the United States Senate in 1996, I had the occasion to be a colleague with him as I was a Member of the House of Representatives.

He truly represented and embodied what it meant to be a veteran: service and sacrifice.

He was a triple amputee because of his wounds in Vietnam as a veteran and, of course, he was appointed by President Carter to head the VA. Of course, he served as the head of the American Battle Monuments Commission and I, as a member of the Military Construction/Veterans' Affairs Committee, had to work with him in making sure that these monuments were well-funded and well-maintained. He did a tremendous job.

Mr. Speaker, I had to come and speak because he was my friend, and he was my colleague and my inspiration. It is very, very fitting that this facility should be named for him because of his legacy.

Longfellow wrote:

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

Senator Cleland lost both legs and an arm, but the footprints that he left and is leaving are his legacy for veterans that will be there forever. I am happy to urge my colleagues to support this legislation which appropriately names the facility in his honor.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very heartfelt remarks, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I will just say that I take note that Senator Cleland had much to do with the establishment of vet centers. I know from the experience of my own veterans how much vet centers make a difference in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for S. 3369 from The

American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Georgia delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA,  
Stockbridge, GA, May 16, 2022.

Representative NIKEMA WILLIAMS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Senator Reverend RAPHAEL WARNOCK,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS AND SENATOR WARNOCK: The American Legion Department of Georgia is in full support of H.R. 6244 and S. 3369: the Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act.

We respectfully implore and sincerely request that the U.S. Congress rename the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center as: "The Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Senator Cleland's distinguished service and noble legacy are still remembered by his fellow Georgians, the nation, and the countless veterans whose lives were greatly improved as a result of his commitment to better healthcare and veterans' services. Renaming the Atlanta VA Medical Center is but a fraction of the tremendous gratitude that our U.S. Congress can do to honor a true champion of veteran affairs.

For God and Country. . .

MARK SHREVE,  
State Commander,  
Department of Georgia.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
April 18, 2022.

Hon. NIKEMA WILLIAMS,  
U.S. Representative (GA-05),  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: On Behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia and as Commander of the Department of Georgia (2021-2022), I am writing to support the legislation as proposed by Representative Williams and Senator Warnock (H.R. 6244/S.3369), that will rename the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

KEVIN HAMMOND,  
Commander Department of Georgia.

DAV,  
April 13, 2022.

REF: Support of Renaming Atlanta VA Medical Center

Matt Alexis,  
Legislative Assistant,  
REP. NIKEMA WILLIAMS (GA-05).

GEORGIA DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: U.S. Representative Nikema Williams and Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock introduced (H.R. 6244/S. 3369) which will name the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, "the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Disabled American Veterans Department of Georgia gives our full support in naming the Atlanta VAMC for the late Senator Joseph Maxwell Cleland.

Senator Cleland distinguished himself with numerous meritorious accolades during his lifetime. Naming the Medical center in his honor would be a tribute to his life's work for veterans.

Thank you to his family and friends and for your service to this country.

Sincerely,

SADIE HILL,  
Sr. Vice Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, July 7, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: We are writing to request your support to name the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Senator Max Cleland was a veteran who fought for veterans and whose efforts indelibly changed how our nation cares for veterans today. He volunteered for service in Vietnam in 1967 and suffered severe combat injuries in 1968, eventually losing three of his limbs. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Silver Star. In 1977, Senator Cleland was appointed by fellow-Georgian President Jimmy Carter to be the youngest ever Administrator of the Veterans Administration (VA). Because of his efforts, the VA revamped its care of the invisible wounds of veterans, recognized, and began to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

Senator Cleland was also a tireless champion of Georgia and Georgians. Born in Atlanta and raised in Lithonia, he served as a Georgia State Senator, Georgia Secretary of State, and eventually U.S. Senator from Georgia. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he fought for Georgia's military installations while also focused on the personnel needs of the military. Senator Cleland played a critical role in the expansion of GI Bill education benefits.

On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79, Senator Cleland died, leaving behind a legacy of service, sacrifice, and joy. He served Georgia, the nation, and, in particular, veterans continuously during his 50 years of public service, improving their lives in countless ways. We believe renaming the Atlanta VA Medical Center for Senator Cleland is most appropriate for a man who spent his life serving those who walk its halls. We hope that the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs will give our request immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Raphael Warnock, Jon Ossoff, Nikema Williams, Hank Johnson, Andrew S. Clyde, Lucy McBath, Austin Scott, David Scott, Barry Loudermilk, Carolyn Bourdeaux, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., A. Drew Ferguson IV, Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, Rick W. Allen, Majorie Taylor Greene, Jody Hice, Members of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a fitting tribute. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3369, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Once again, as we talk about heroism, you can't summarize in 3 minutes the heroism of these men. Max Cleland lost two legs and an arm, and this is a well-deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3369.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON VA REGIONAL OFFICE ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4359) to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4359

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act of 2022".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) John Hardy Isakson, known as "Johnny", was born December 28, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Julia Isakson and Edwin Andrew Isakson.

(2) Johnny Isakson graduated from the University of Georgia in 1966 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

(3) In 1966, Johnny Isakson enlisted in the Georgia Air National Guard, serving until 1972 and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

(4) Johnny Isakson gained success in private business, serving for 22 years as a real estate executive and growing his business into one of the largest of its kind in both Georgia and in the United States.

(5) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1976, serving in the State House of Representatives until 1990.

(6) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1992, serving until 1996.

(7) In 1996, Governor Zell Miller appointed Johnny Isakson to be Chairman of the Georgia State Board of Education.

(8) Johnny Isakson was elected to represent the 6th District of Georgia in the United States House of Representatives in 1999, and served until 2005.

(9) During his time in the House of Representatives, Johnny Isakson, as a member of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, worked to improve American education, and was a key advocate for the bipartisan education reforms that became the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110).

(10) Johnny Isakson was elected to the United States Senate in 2004, serving until December 31, 2019.

(11) During his time in the Senate, Johnny Isakson was an exemplar of courtesy, dignity, and kindness, beloved and respected by colleagues regardless of party.

(12) Johnny Isakson, during the 111th Congress, demonstrated a bipartisan yearning for peace, and crossed party lines to support the ratification of the 2010 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, also known as New START.

(13) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman

of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, a position with which he tirelessly championed reform to improve the benefits and quality of service for our nation's military veterans.

(14) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(15) The late Congressman John Lewis once described Johnny Isakson as "A man who has strong belief but also willing to work with others to get things done."

(16) On December 19, 2021, Johnny Isakson passed away, but his legacy of character and goodwill will endure as an example to all who serve, or will serve, in the United States Senate.

**SEC. 3. SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office in Georgia shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office" or the "Isakson VA Atlanta Regional Office".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Regional Office referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 4359.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, S. 4359, which will rename the VA regional office in metropolitan Atlanta the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

I knew Senator Isakson well from his years of service on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Like many of my colleagues, my enduring memory of Senator Isakson is that he was a reasonable man, a tireless advocate for veterans, and was someone you could work with to find common ground—something that is all too rare in today's political environment.

I didn't always agree with Senator Isakson's politics, but I never once questioned his commitment to the men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

I worked closely with Senator Isakson on a number of significant bills, including a wide-ranging VA reform bill—the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014—that President Obama signed into law during my first term in office.

The bill expanded survivor benefits and educational opportunities and improved care for victims of sexual assault and veterans struggling with traumatic brain injuries while making important strides toward ensuring veterans' access to timely healthcare at VA medical centers.

Senator Isakson was heavily involved in other bipartisan initiatives affecting our Nation's veterans, including a 2017 law intended to improve processing of VA benefit appeals and a 2018 law giving VA the authority to expand healthcare access to community providers.

These pieces of legislation will have a profound impact on veterans' access to the benefits and services they rightfully earned for generations to come, and we owe Senator Isakson a debt of gratitude for his persistent efforts in seeing these bills through.

Senator Isakson was a veteran himself, having served as a young man in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. He ran his family's real estate business for over two decades and ably represented his constituents in the Georgia House of Representatives and the Georgia Senate before serving in the U.S. House and Senate.

He has the distinction of being the longest-serving Republican Senator in Georgia history, and, at a personal level, I cannot think of a more suitable name for this VA facility—where so many civil servants work to provide veterans the benefits they earned—than the Johnny Isakson Regional Office.

S. 4359 was introduced by Senator JON OSSOFF, while the House companion was led by Representative SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia's Second Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 4359 from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Georgia delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA,  
June 14, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE U.S. CONGRESS: The American Legion Department of Georgia is in full support of S-4359: the Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Act of 2022.

We respectfully implore and sincerely request that the U.S. Congress favorably considers naming the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office".

Senator Isakson's distinguished himself as a tireless and unrelenting advocate who

championed reform to improve the benefits and quality of service for our Nation's veterans. It is our solid and steadfast position that this Act will be the hallmark tribute to a fellow Georgian who labored to bring about better and improved healthcare and quality veterans' services. We are indebted to our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Senator Isakson recognized the debt and devoted his efforts as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate "to make right the master of might".

Naming the Atlanta VA Regional Office in honor of Senator Isakson is a step in the right direction for the sake of veterans of the great State of Georgia and the veterans across this great Nation.

For God and Country. . .

MARK SHREVE,  
(For Z.C. Debro, Dept. Adjutant),  
State Commander, Department of Georgia.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
Macon, Georgia, May 31, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN TAKANO: On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia and in my capacity as State Commander, I am writing to support renaming the Atlanta VA Regional Office to the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

As a member and former chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Isakson worked tirelessly to bring oversight and accountability to the agency responsible for providing care and support to our nation's veterans. A veteran himself, Isakson was a member of the Senate VA Committee since joining the Senate in 2005 and played a crucial role in the massive VA reform bill, the Veterans' Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

Today, Georgia remains home to more than a dozen military bases, as well as more than 750,000 veterans. In addition to aiding veterans who served in years past, he has worked to strengthen our Armed Forces and continues to show unwavering commitment to the men and women serving our country today. Isakson brought commonsense leadership to Congress through bipartisan efforts to address federal spending, reduce the debt, create jobs, and reform burdensome federal regulations.

If the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia may assist in any way to rename the Atlanta VA Regional Office to the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office," please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

KEVIN F. HAMMOND,  
VFW Department of Georgia,  
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,  
June 6, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Georgia writes in support of legislation sponsored by Senators Jon Ossoff, Roy Blunt, and Raphael Warnock, renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta Regional Office, as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

Throughout his career, Senator Isakson was a passionate advocate for veterans in Georgia and across the country. Senator Isakson served in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. Throughout his political career he found common ground across the aisle in order to achieve progress, all the while governing with compassion. As a longtime member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs he worked to serve veterans and increase accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. As Chairman of the committee, he championed VA reforms that culminated in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

We believe that naming the VA Atlanta Regional Office after Senator Isakson, a dedicated advocate and public servant, will honor his legacy and inspire future generations of Georgians.

Sincerely,

SADIE HILL,  
Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, June 15, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: As members of the Georgia congressional delegation, we write to request your support for legislation to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office the, "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

Senator Johnny Isakson served veterans, the state of Georgia, and the United States throughout his life. A native of Atlanta and a graduate of the University of Georgia, Senator Isakson served in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. Following a successful business career, he served in the Georgia General Assembly and Georgia State Senate for nearly two decades, served as Chairman of the State Board of Education, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

In 2004, Senator Isakson was elected to the United States Senate. During his fifteen years in the chamber, he earned a reputation for courtesy, dignity, and kindness, building relationships across the aisle for the good of the country. Eventually, Senator Isakson rose to Chair the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a role in which he championed important reforms to improve the quality and accessibility of services for our nation's military veterans.

We believe that Senator Isakson's service to the veterans of Georgia warrants this tremendous recognition, and that naming this facility is a fitting tribute to his legacy. Accordingly, we respectfully request the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees' consideration and support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jon Ossoff, Sanford Bishop, Austin Scott, Buddy Carter, David Scott, Andrew Clyde, Raphael Warnock, Lucy McBath, Barry Loudermilk, Hank Johnson, Nikema Williams, Carolyn Bordeaux, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Rick Allen, Jody Hice, Drew Ferguson, Members of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4359, a bill to designate the VA regional office in Atlanta as the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

Senator Isakson served over 45 years as a public servant. He retired in 2019 as the longest-serving Republican Senator from the great State of Georgia.

Senator Isakson is remembered for his contributions to the veteran community and to his home State.

His successful career of public service began when he joined the Georgia Air National Guard. After separating from the National Guard, he brought this invaluable experience to the Georgia General Assembly and to the U.S. Congress.

Senator Isakson was a dedicated advocate for our Nation's veterans, serving as chairman for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for three Congresses.

Under his chairmanship, our friends on the Senate VA Committee spearheaded the enactment of critical legislation such as the VA Mission Act, the Forever GI Bill, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, and the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.

Senator Isakson is remembered fondly by his colleagues as the embodiment of compassionate servant leadership. He had a reputation as a bipartisan Member who was willing to reach across the aisle for the good of his constituents. I can think of no better way to honor Senator Isakson's legacy to both the citizens of Georgia and the veteran community than by naming the Atlanta regional office after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) who serves as subcommittee chair on the Appropriations Committee and also as a former member of the House of Representatives House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am honored to speak in support of S. 4359 to rename the VA's Atlantic regional office after a good and great man, the late Senator Johnny Isakson.

This is a companion bill to one that I introduced in the House with my colleague across the aisle, Congressman RICK ALLEN, and which the entire Georgia congressional delegation cosponsored.

A son of Georgia, Johnny Isakson was born in Atlanta and graduated from the University of Georgia. He was first a businessman and then a public servant.

I served with him in the Georgia General Assembly and then in the United States Congress where he served as a Congressman and as a U.S. Senator.

We stood side by side in support of Georgia's military bases, families, and veterans. Together we worked on many projects to improve the lives of Georgians and Americans.

During his many years as a public servant and as the chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, he worked tirelessly on behalf of the Nation's most deserving citizens: our military veterans.

It is fitting that we are taking up consideration of this bill just as we conclude commemorating Veterans Day. One of the fundamental ways Congress can demonstrate its thanks to our veterans is to provide the care they have earned and deserved.

Renaming the VA facility in Atlanta after Senator Isakson is a fitting recognition of his service to our country and his lifelong work ensuring Congress upholds America's commitment to its veterans. I am proud to call Johnny a friend, and I know he continues to look down on us. I hope that we are inspired by his example to always give our best to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to honor Johnny Isakson's legacy of service.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 4359, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4359.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1530

#### VA INFRASTRUCTURE POWERS EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5721) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5721

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021” or the “VIPER Act of 2021”.

**SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act**

“Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) shall not apply to research activities of the Department, including activities under subchapter V of chapter 73.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act.”.

**SEC. 3. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

**“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT****“§ 7381. Office of Research and Development**

“(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—There is in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Research and Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) PURPOSES.—The function of the Office is to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research (including pre-clinical, clinical, and health systems science), technology transfer, and application.

“(c) CHIEF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.—The head of the Office is the Chief Research and Development Officer.

“(d) ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL.—The Office shall be organized in such manner, and its personnel shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

**“§ 7382. Research personnel**

“(a) WAIVER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT MOBILITY PROGRAM LIMITS.—The Secretary may waive the limit on the period and number of assignments required under section 3372(a) of title 5 with respect to an individual who performs research for the Department under the mobility program under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of such title (commonly referred to as the ‘Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program’).

“(b) OUTSIDE EARNED INCOME FOR RESEARCH FOR THE DEPARTMENT.—(1) Compensation from a nonprofit corporation established under subchapter IV of this chapter, or a university affiliated with the Department, may be paid, without regard to section 209 of title 18, to an employee described in paragraph (2), for research conducted pursuant to section 7303 of this title if—

“(A) the research has been approved in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Under Secretary for Health;

“(B) the employee conducts research under the supervision of personnel of the Department; and

“(C) the Secretary agreed to the terms of such compensation in writing.

“(2) An employee described in this subsection is an employee who has an appointment within the Department, whether with or without compensation, and without regard to the source of such compensation.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

“7381. Office of Research and Development.  
“7382. Research personnel.”.

**SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF HIRING AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF RESEARCH OCCUPATIONS.**

Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “statisticians, economists, informaticists, data scientists, and” after “blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5721, as amended.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5721, as amended, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or VIPER Act, as amended, which I introduced with Ranking Member BOST.

This bipartisan bill was developed in consultation with scientific groups and veteran service organizations. It gives VA the additional authorities it needs to make its world-class research program even more efficient and innovative as it works to improve the lives of the veterans it serves.

It is no secret that VA research is a jewel in VA’s crown, and we need to ensure that VA can continue to be competitive in hiring the finest scientists to understand, prevent, and treat health challenges veterans face from the effects of military toxic exposures and chronic pain to post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

VA has told us and our Senate colleagues that it urgently needs the VIPER Act, especially to protect the nonprofit veterans research and education foundations so critical to the VA research enterprise.

VIPER is also endorsed by major VSOs, including The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Minority Veterans of America, Modern Military Association of America, and Wounded Warrior Project.

It has the strong endorsement of scientific organizations that support the VA research program, including the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, America Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Heart Association, America Psychiatric Association, American Physiological Association, American Thoracic Society, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of VA Psychologist Leaders, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biol-

ogy, National Association of Veterans’ Research and Education Foundations, Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs, and Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from four of these organizations.

FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE  
AND HEALTH RESEARCH,

November 5, 2021.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,

*Chair, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,

*Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: As members of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) executive committee, we write to thank you for your legislation, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or VIPER Act. The organizations represented by the FOVA executive committee are pleased to endorse this bill, which would provide added authority and resources to improve the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program.

FOVA is a coalition founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America’s veterans receive high-quality health care supported by veteran-centric research conducted through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing nearly 100 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations. FOVA works in concert with the Independent Budget veterans service organizations.

We are pleased that Congress has worked over the last several years in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to support robust funding growth for VA research. Specifically, your legislation would add stability and efficiency for the VA research program by formally authorizing VA’s Office of Research and Development and excluding VA research from Paperwork Reduction Act requirements, better aligning VA with other federal research agencies. We also appreciate that the VIPER Act would work to enhance the diversity of the VA research workforce, increasing scientific opportunities and leading to improved health care for veterans.

While the VIPER Act takes important steps to strengthen the research program, additional infrastructure support for information technology and physical laboratory improvements continue to be necessary to ensure that VA researchers have access to the cutting-edge technology that yields state-of-the-art research and improved health outcomes. We understand that you remain abreast of these issues, and we stand ready to support any additional efforts you may undertake to address these important research needs.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to working with you to continue this important work.

Sincerely,

THE FOVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ASSOCIATION OF  
VA PSYCHOLOGIST LEADERS,

November 10, 2022.

The Association of VA Psychologist Leaders fully endorses H.R. 5721: To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. We believe this will bring needed parity of private and public universities funding VA Researchers. Many important discoveries in health



care originated from VA research. If VA researchers are blocked from being compensated for their work, we will deprive Veterans and the broader American population of new advancements in healthcare. Further, limiting VA's research enterprise will diminish the its attractiveness to professional trainees and cause current staff to leave VA service.

We appreciate Chairman Takano and Ranking Member Bost for introducing this bill and we would like to offer our endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

MIKE MARTIN, PhD,  
President, Association of  
VA Psychologist Leaders.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR  
SUICIDE PREVENTION,  
November 11, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: On behalf of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), I am pleased to write in support of H.R. 5721, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act of 2021. As you know, this important legislation will provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with new authorities to facilitate research on Veterans' health outcomes, leading to better care for our nation's Veterans and service members.

Suicide is an ongoing public health crisis in the United States. The national suicide rate increased by 4% in 2021, reversing progress made in 2019 and 2020. Since the year 2000, the national suicide rate has increased by 30%, and suicide remains a leading cause of death in the United States. This crisis is tragically prevalent among Veterans, who face a significantly higher risk of suicide than their civilian counterparts. In 2020, 6,146 Veterans died by suicide, at a rate 57.3% higher than that of non-Veteran U.S. adults.

The VIPER Act will allow the VA to grow its research program, encourage more innovation and collaboration, and support the recruitment and retention of data scientists and researchers. By providing the VA with the research tools and resources it needs, the VIPER Act will improve the lives of Veterans and service members and help to prevent suicide among these populations.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership in support of Veterans and service members, and we urge the swift passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

LAUREL STINE, J.D., M.A.,  
Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,  
Chair, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JON TESTER,  
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER BOST, CHAIR TESTER, AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: Thank you for your continued sup-

port of medical research addressing the health of America's veterans. We write respectfully to urge Congress to enact as soon as possible a bipartisan veterans bill that includes provisions from HR 5721, the VIPER Act that will allow research affiliations between nonprofit medical schools and Veterans' Affairs (VA) medical centers to continue without disruption. The VA recently issued guidance that prohibits VA employees involved in VA research from receiving compensation from outside sources, including a VA-affiliated Nonprofit Education and Research Corporation or an affiliated nonprofit medical school. This policy will be highly disruptive to thousands of research projects focused on improving veterans' health and led by VA scientists who hold joint appointments with nonprofit medical schools. A limited exception to allow outside compensation for VA researchers (enclosure) would provide stability for these important projects.

Across the country, VA medical centers are affiliated with nonprofit as well as public medical schools for the purpose of improving the quality of veterans' health care, to support medical education, and to foster medical research on conditions affecting veterans. Projects conducted at VA medical centers in partnership with medical schools are advancing new therapies and treatments for a wide range of health challenges, including cancer, diabetes, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and chronic pain. The importance of these affiliations was recently highlighted in a May statement for the record to your committees by the Association of American Medical Colleges, including a recommendation of swift passage of the VIPER Act.

These very productive affiliations between VA medical centers and medical schools are built around joint faculty appointments, in which faculty based at the VA often derive part of their salary from the academic institution, often through research grants from the National Institutes of Health or other sponsors. However, in January 2022, the VA General Counsel issued guidance, based on advice from the Department of Justice, stating that current federal law (18 USC 209) bars VA researchers from deriving any part of their research compensation from non-federal sources. If the new guidance were to take effect, VA-affiliated researchers across the country would be required to forego external sources of support (and thus take a cut in salary), curtail externally-funded research (including federally-funded projects), or attempt to relocate their clinical research sites from the VA to facilities on medical school campuses (which may not be possible in many cases due to space and logistical constraints). This has the potential to interrupt hundreds of millions of dollars invested in life-saving biomedical research for America's veterans.

The VA is trying to avoid a disruption of the medical research conducted at VA medical centers, but a full resolution requires legislation. We ask that you and your colleagues work quickly to pass a bipartisan veterans' legislative package that includes the relevant provisions of HR 5721 that will allow VA employees to receive outside compensation related to their clinical and research activities at VA medical centers. We are grateful for your attention to this issue and for your support of university research that benefits our veterans. We would be happy to discuss this further at your convenience or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Klotman, MD; President & CEO; Executive Dean, Baylor College of Medicine.

Karen H. Antman, MD; Provost, Boston University Medical Campus; Dean, Boston University School of Medicine.

Mukesh K. Jain, MD, FAHA; Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences; The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Stanton L. Gerson, MD; Dean, School of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs; Case Western Reserve University.

Katrina Armstrong, MD; Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences; Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Duane A. Compton, PhD; Dean, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

Mary E. Klotman, MD; R.J. Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Dean, Duke University School of Medicine; Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University; Chief Academic Officer, Duke University Health System.

Vikas P. Sukhatme, MD, ScD; Dean, Emory School of Medicine; Chief Academic Officer, Emory Healthcare.

Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS; Professor of Surgery and Dean; School of Medicine and Health Sciences; George Washington University.

George Q. Daley, MD, PhD; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Harvard University.

Joseph E. Kerschner, MD; Provost and Executive Vice President; The Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine; Professor of Otolaryngology; Microbiology and Immunology; Medical College of Wisconsin.

Eric G. Neilson, MD, MACP, FASN; Vice President for Medical Affairs; Lewis Landsberg Dean; Professor of Medicine and Cell and Developmental Biology; Feinberg School of Medicine; Northwestern University.

Robert I. Grossman, MD; Dean, New York University Grossman School of Medicine; Chief Executive Officer, New York University Langone Health.

Lloyd B. Minor, M.D.; Carl and Elizabeth Naumann Dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine; Professor of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery; Professor of Neurobiology and of Bioengineering, by courtesy.

Lee Hamm, MD; Senior Vice President & Dean of the School of Medicine; Tulane University.

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM; Professor & Dean; Barry & Virginia Weinman—Endowed Chair; John A. Burns School of Medicine; University of Hawaii—Manoa.

Mark T. Gladwin, MD; Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore; John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and; Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA; Dean and Chief Academic Officer; University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD; Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System; Dean, Perelman School of Medicine.

Nancy J. Brown, MD; Jean and David W. Wallace Dean; C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine; Yale School of Medicine.

Enclosure.

RECOMMENDED LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO ALLOW OUTSIDE COMPENSATION IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO RESEARCH (FROM HR 5721)

(a) Office of Research and Development.—Chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
“§ 7381. Office of Research and Development

“(a) Office of Research and Development.—There is in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Research and Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) Purposes.—The function of the Office is to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research (including pre-clinical, clinical, and health systems science), technology transfer, and application.

“(c) Chief Research and Development Officer.—The head of the Office is the Chief Research and Development Officer.

“(d) Organization and personnel.—The Office shall be organized in such manner, and its personnel shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

#### “§ 7382. Research personnel

“(a) Waiver of Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program limits.—The Secretary may waive the limit on the period and number of assignments required under section 3372(a) of title 5 with respect to an individual who performs research for the Department under the mobility program under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of such title (commonly referred to as the ‘Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program’).

“(b) Outside earned income for research for the Department.—(1) Compensation from a nonprofit corporation established under subchapter IV of this chapter, or a university affiliated with the Department, may be paid, without regard to section 209 of title 18, to an employee described in paragraph (2), for research conducted pursuant to section 7303 of this title if—

“(A) the research has been approved in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Under Secretary for Health;

“(B) the employee conducts research under the supervision of personnel of the Department; and

“(C) the Secretary agreed to the terms of such compensation in writing.

“(2) An employee described in this subsection is an employee who has an appointment within the Department, whether with or without compensation, and without regard to the source of such compensation.”

Mr. TAKANO. In one letter, deans from 20 medical schools note that without the legislative fix in VIPER, VA will have to “interrupt hundreds of millions of dollars invested in life-saving biomedical research for America’s veterans.”

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill, urge our Senate colleagues to pass it, and get it to the President by the end of the year to give VA the authorities it needs to fix its research program issues now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5721, as amended, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or the VIPER Act.

Ranking Member BOST is an original cosponsor of this bill alongside Chairman TAKANO.

Research is one of the core statutory missions of the VA healthcare system. VA researchers have made a number of important discoveries and advancements that have benefited not only veterans but the entire world.

Just recently, with the pandemic, VA researchers have done groundbreaking work utilizing vast stores of data to identify certain collateral health im-

pacts on vulnerable populations, and they have made notable advancements in studying the characteristics of and potential treatments for what is termed long COVID.

This bill will make it easier for VA to conduct the research that veterans require, and yield advancements in science and medicine that will benefit everyone.

The VIPER Act would codify VA’s Office of Research and Development.

VIPER would also better structure VA’s ability to conduct research across the system.

Finally, this bill will expand hiring authorities for certain classes of research occupations, including statisticians, economists, informaticists, and data scientists.

VA needs the talent of these occupational categories to keep up with rapid changes in data analytics, including artificial intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the bipartisan committee work that has been done to date on this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 5721, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5721, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### STRENGTHENING VA CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7299) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7299

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022” or the “SVAC Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to provide to the Secretary an independent cybersecurity assessment of—

(A) five high-impact information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the effectiveness of the information security program and information security management system of the Department.

(2) DETAILED ANALYSIS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the ability of the Department—

(A) to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information, information systems, and devices of the Department; and

(B) to protect against—

(i) advanced persistent cybersecurity threats;

(ii) ransomware;

(iii) denial of service attacks;

(iv) insider threats;

(v) threats from foreign actors, including state sponsored criminals and other foreign based criminals;

(vi) phishing;

(vii) credential theft;

(viii) cybersecurity attacks that target the supply chain of the Department;

(ix) threats due to remote access and telework activity; and

(x) other cyber threats.

(3) TYPES OF SYSTEMS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall cover on-premises, remote, cloud-based, and mobile information systems and devices used by, or in support of, Department activities.

(4) SHADOW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the use of information technology systems, devices, and services by employees and contractors of the Department who do so without the heads of the elements of the Department that are responsible for information technology at the Department knowing or approving of such use.

(5) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the cybersecurity assessment to be provided under paragraph (1), the federally funded research and development center shall take into account industry best practices and the current state-of-the-art in cybersecurity evaluation and review.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an independent assessment is provided to the Secretary by a federally funded research and development center pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to address the findings of the federally funded research and development center set forth in such assessment.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Improvements to the security controls of the information systems of the Department assessed under subsection (a) to—

(i) achieve the goals specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of such subsection; and

(ii) protect against the threats specified in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

(B) Improvements to the information security program and information security management system of the Department to achieve such goals and protect against such threats.

(C) A cost estimate for implementing the plan.

(D) A timeline for implementing the plan.

(E) Such other elements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(C) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES EVALUATION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the plan under subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) commence an evaluation and review of—

(A) the independent cybersecurity assessment provided under subsection (a); and

(B) the response of the Department to such assessment; and

(2) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the results of the evaluation and review, including any recommendations made to the Secretary regarding the matters covered by the briefing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7299, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 7299, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022. This bill represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort to oversee the Department of Veterans Affairs' cybersecurity efforts.

This legislation requires independent assessment of the VA's cybersecurity readiness by a federally funded research and development center, or FFRDC.

This bill is necessary because of the poor performance of VA in audits required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, also known as FISMA, and independent audits from the VA OIG on individual VA sites.

The bill also seeks to address the issue of "shadow IT" which has been a priority of the committee this Congress. If VA does not know what is on its networks and can't identify assets being utilized outside of the Office of Information Technology, then VA can't secure it.

VA's repository of veterans' health information needs to be protected. We owe it to veterans to address these challenges now so that Congress and veterans can be assured that VA will secure their personal information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 7299, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7299, as amended, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022.

VA is the second largest Federal agency, and it handles 9 million veterans' personal information. The Department is a big target for cyber criminals, and the Veterans' Affairs Committee is responsible for making sure their data is being protected.

Unfortunately, it can be hard to assess how well VA is truly performing on cybersecurity, and how successfully the money invested translates into better security for veterans' information.

This bill would require a third-party cybersecurity audit of VA to fill in the gaps left by the existing audits. While necessary, those audits tend to be compliance exercises.

In contrast, this legislation requires a hard look at actual VA systems and real-world vulnerabilities. The bill also requires VA to submit a detailed plan to remediate whatever weaknesses the third-party auditor finds.

Hostile nations are working around the clock to exploit any vulnerability in our networks or systems, especially with health records. We must stay one step ahead of them, and I appreciate Mr. MRVAN's work on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7299, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7299, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

### IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDERS ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7277) to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7277

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) PLAN.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health, shall carry out a plan to improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Modifying the standard operating procedures of the Office of Community Care of the Veterans Health Administration regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program to require the automated continuous matching of health care providers in the Provider Profile Management System of the Veterans Health Administration, or such successor system, with covered data systems using multiple unique identifiers, including taxpayer identification number, national provider identifier, Social Security number, and date of birth.

(B) A fraud risk analysis conducted by the Office of Community Care regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program that includes—

(i) an assessment of the likelihood and impact of inherent fraud risks relating to the self-certification of State licenses and addresses provided by health care providers;

(ii) a determination of the fraud risk tolerance; and

(iii) an examination of the suitability of existing fraud controls.

(C) Any other matters the Under Secretary determines will improve the oversight of health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the Secretary has implemented the plan under subsection (a).

#### (c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the progress the Under Secretary has made in carrying out the plan under subsection (a); and

(B) includes recommendations for legislative action to further improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an update to the report.

#### (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered data systems" means the following:

(A) The List of Excluded Individuals/Entities of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) The System for Award Management Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code, or successor regulations.

(C) The monthly deactivation file of the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

(D) The National Practitioner Data Bank established pursuant to the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.).

(2) The term "Veterans Community Care Program" means the program established under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7277, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7277, the Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act, as amended, a bill that will take important steps toward ensuring that healthcare providers meet the eligibility requirements and standards of VA's Community Care Program.

I thank Representative CHRIS PAPPAS, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, for his work on this bipartisan bill.

I was disturbed by a recent Government Accountability Office report requested by Chairman PAPPAS and Ranking Member TRACEY MANN, which identified approximately 1,600 healthcare providers who were deceased, ineligible to work with the Federal Government, or who had revoked or suspended medical licenses, yet were still listed as active providers in VA's Community Care networks.

While the number of ineligible providers was a small fraction of the roughly 1.2 million active providers in VA's Community Care networks, they still represented a potential threat to veteran health and safety, and a risk for financial fraud.

Congressman PAPPAS' bill would require VA to implement GAO's recommendations to ensure veterans and taxpayers are not put at risk.

The bill will modify standard operating procedures at the VA Health Administration and require continuous matching of providers' information against several data sources in order to verify eligibility, such as the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities that the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General maintains, the National Practitioner Data Bank, and the monthly deactivation file of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

This will go a long way toward ensuring that physicians and other providers in VA's Community Care networks meet the basic and necessary standards, such as proper and current licensing requirements.

This bill has the support of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that it will have no significant impact on direct spending or deficits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7277, as amended, the Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act.

This is a bipartisan bill led by Chairman PAPPAS and Ranking Member MANN of the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee.

H.R. 7277 would implement recent recommendations from the Government Accountability Office on how to improve oversight of community care. Community care is VA care, and it should be timely and of the highest quality.

Unfortunately, our committee has heard repeated complaints of delays in community care. Long wait-times at VA medical centers and delays in community care are unacceptable, and we take these complaints very seriously.

The committee will continue our strict oversight of the program to ensure veterans are getting the care they need when and where they need it. It is vital to protect this important option for veterans, and I encourage all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend, who is the author of this legislation and who serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for yielding.

I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 7277, the Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act.

This legislation will help ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs does a better job overseeing its Community Care Program, which many veterans in my State of New Hampshire and all across the country rely on to access high-quality care in their communities.

When veterans visit a community healthcare provider, they should be assured, at a minimum, that the provider has a medical license and is eligible to do business with the Federal Government. Unfortunately, as a December 2021 GAO report detailed, this has not always been the case.

GAO identified approximately 1,600 community care providers who were deceased, ineligible to work with the Federal Government, or who had re-

voked or suspended medical licenses at the time of the review.

That is 1,600 physicians and other healthcare providers who failed to meet some of the program's most basic requirements. This poses a potential threat to veteran health and well-being, and risks wasting tax dollars on inappropriate medical charges. My legislation will strengthen oversight of these community care providers.

Now, to VA's credit, the Department has updated several data systems to improve the credentialing process and to continuously monitor the eligibility of providers. But progress has been too slow, and this legislation is needed to hold the Department fully accountable.

This bill will require VA to implement a detailed plan with required milestones for identifying healthcare providers who are no longer eligible to participate in the Community Care Program.

Under the plan, VA will automatically check whether providers are designated as ineligible on other critical lists managed by the Department of Health and Human Services and CMMS.

VA will also be required to analyze the efficacy of allowing community care providers to self-certify their eligibility to participate in the program. We need VA to adopt a more complete method for credentialing providers that has ample checks and balances.

I thank Ranking Member TRACEY MANN for working with me on this bipartisan legislation, which has also been endorsed by VFW, the American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans.

Once enacted, it will give much-needed protection to veterans to ensure they have high-quality healthcare they earned through their service to our Nation, without fear that they may be receiving care from an ineligible provider. So I urge all colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 7277, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7277, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REFORM ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2250) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2250

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2022”.

## SEC. 2. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

### “SUBCHAPTER VI—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### “§ 8171. Definitions

“In this subchapter:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘information technology’ has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

“(3)(A) The term ‘information technology project’ means a project or program of the Department (including a project or program of any element of the Department) for, or including, the acquisition or implementation of information technology.

“(B) In cases where the Secretary transmits to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget information regarding information technology investments, which may consist of individual or multiple projects, the term ‘information technology project’ refers to an individual project or program or a grouping of multiple projects or programs resulting in the acquisition or implementation of discrete information technology.

“(4) The term ‘life cycle costs’ means all direct and indirect costs to acquire, implement, operate, and maintain information technology, including with respect to costs of any element of the Department.

“(5) The term ‘major information technology project’ means an information technology project if—

“(A) the project is designated by the Secretary, the Chief Information Officer of the Department, or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as a major information technology investment, as defined in section 11302 of title 40; or

“(B) the dollar value of the project is estimated by the Secretary to exceed—

“(i) \$1,000,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) for the total life cycle costs of the project; or

“(ii) \$200,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) annually.

“(6) The term ‘business owner’ means, with respect to an information technology project, the program manager, project manager, or other supervisory official of the Department responsible for the project.

#### “§ 8172. Management of major information technology projects

“(a) COST, SCHEDULE, AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—(1) The Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing information on the cost, schedule, and performance of each major information technology project that begins after the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2022, as generated by the business owner of the project, prior to the commencement of such project.

“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) for a project shall include, with respect to such project, the following:

“(A) An estimate of acquisition costs, implementation costs, and life cycle costs.

“(B) An intended implementation schedule indicating significant milestones, initial operating capability, and full operating capability or completion.

“(C) Key business, functional, and performance objectives.

“(b) BASELINE.—(1) The Secretary shall use the information on the cost, schedule, and performance of a major information technology project included in the report under subsection (a) as the baseline against which changes or variances are measured during the life cycle of such project.

“(2) The Secretary shall—

“(A) annually update the baseline of a major information technology project pursuant to subsection (c); and

“(B) include such updated baseline in the documents providing detailed information on the budget for the Department that the Secretary submits to Congress in conjunction with the President’s budget submission pursuant to section 1105 of title 31.

“(c) CHANGES AND VARIANCES.—(1) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary identifies a change or variance described in paragraph (2) in the cost, schedule, or performance of a major information technology project, the Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of such change or variance, including a description and explanation for such change or variance.

“(2) A change or variance in the cost, schedule, or performance of a major information technology project described in this paragraph is—

“(A) with respect to the acquisition, implementation, or life cycle cost of the project, or development increment therein, a change or variance that is 10 percent or greater compared to the baseline;

“(B) with respect to the schedule for a development increment or for achieving a significant milestone, initial operating capability, or full operating capability, or for the final completion of the project, a change or variance that is 180 days or greater compared to the baseline; or

“(C) with respect to the performance, an instance where a key business, functional, or performance objective is not attained, or is not anticipated to be attained, in whole or in part.

“(d) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that each major information technology project is managed by an interdisciplinary team consisting of the following:

“(1) A project manager who—

“(A)(i) is certified in project management at level three by—

“(I) the Department;

“(II) the Federal Acquisition Institute pursuant to section 1201 of title 41; or

“(III) the Department of Defense pursuant to section 1701a of title 10; or

“(ii) holds an equivalent certification by a private sector project management certification organization, as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(B) is an employee of the Office of Information and Technology of the Department or an employee of an element of the Department at which the project originates.

“(2) A functional lead who is an employee of the element of the Department at which the project originates.

“(3) A technical lead who is an employee of the Office of Information and Technology of the Department.

“(4) A contracting officer.

“(5) Sufficient other project management, functional, technical, and procurement personnel as the Secretary determines appropriate.

#### “§ 8173. Information technology activities of the Financial Services Center

“(a) MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with sections 11302 and 11319 of title 40—

“(1) the Chief Information Officer of the Department shall—

“(A) exercise authority over the management, governance, and oversight processes relating to existing or proposed information technology of the Financial Services Center of the Department, or such successor office; and

“(B) supervise the information technology employees and contractors of the Financial Services Center; and

“(2) the Director of the Financial Services Center of the Department, or the head of such successor office, may not enter into a contract or other agreement for information technology or information technology services unless the contract or other agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Chief Information Officer.

“(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Information Officer shall have oversight and operational authority over all information security practices of the Financial Services Center of the Department.

#### “§ 8174. Submission of annual reviews of information technology

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees each annual review of the information technology portfolio of the Department conducted pursuant to section 11319(d)(3) of title 40.

“(b) FIRST SUBMISSION.—The first annual review submitted under subsection (a) shall include a copy of each previous annual review conducted under section 11319(d)(3) of title 40.

#### “§ 8175. Information technology matters to be included in budget justification materials for the Department

“(a) LIST OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS IN EFFECT.—The Secretary shall ensure that whenever the budget justification materials are submitted to Congress in support of the Department budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President for such fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31), such budget justification materials include a list of every information technology project currently in effect at the Department (including not only congressional projects and subprojects as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or the Secretary).

“(b) **PRIORITIZED LIST OF UNFUNDED PROJECTS.**—(1) In addition to the list included in the budget justification materials required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the budget justification materials described in such subsection also include summary descriptions and a prioritized list, in rank order, of every information technology project of the Department, proposed or intended to be proposed for the following one, two, or three fiscal years, that is unfunded as of the time of the inclusion of the list under this paragraph.

“(2) In producing the list required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) ensure such list represents a ranking of all proposed information technology projects that reflects the needs of all elements of the Department;

“(B) produce one unified list for the entire Department demonstrating how the various proposed information technology projects of each of the elements of the Department rank in priority with the information technology projects of the other elements of the Department; and

“(C) ensure that the list—

“(i) does not disaggregate and rank information technology projects based on element of the Department; and

“(ii) does identify the element of the Department requesting the information technology project.

“(3)(A) In producing each list under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize and rank each information technology project based on an assessment of each of the following factors:

“(i) Degree of collaboration between business owners and the Chief Information Officer with respect to joint functional-technical planning, requirements, and management.

“(ii) Operational or efficiency benefits to employees of the Department created or produced by the information technology project.

“(iii) The life cycle cost of the information technology project.

“(iv) The cost savings or cost avoidance yielded by the information technology project.

“(v) Time to completion of the information technology project.

“(vi) The difficulty of the information technology project, the likelihood the information technology project will be completed, or the risks associated with undertaking the information technology project.

“(vii) Tangible benefits to veterans created or produced by the information technology project.

“(viii) Such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) The Secretary shall ensure that each list produced under paragraph (1) includes, for each information technology project included in the list, a brief description of the findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment carried out by the Secretary for each factor for the information technology project under subparagraph (A).

“(c) **PROJECTED FUNDING NEEDS.**—(1) In addition to the matters included under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall ensure that the budget justification materials described in subsection (a) also include a projection of the one-year, two-year, and three-year funding needs of the Department for information technology, disaggregated by—

“(A) portfolio; and

“(B) the product line of the Department that requires the funding.

“(2) In addition to the projections under paragraph (1), with respect to each of the periods set forth in such paragraph, the Secretary shall include a description of the funding required for each technology business management category used by the Of-

fice of Information Technology of the Department (commonly referred to as ‘cost pools’ and ‘towers’).’.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 8171. Definitions.

“Sec. 8172. Management of major information technology projects.

“Sec. 8173. Information technology activities of the Financial Services Center.

“Sec. 8174. Submission of annual reviews of information technology.

“Sec. 8175. Information technology matters to be included in budget justification materials for the Department.”

(c) **APPLICATION AND REPORT REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.**—

(1) **CURRENT AND NEW MAJOR PROJECTS.**—Except as specifically provided in subsection (a) of section 8172 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, such section 8172 shall apply with respect to major information technology projects that begin before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **REPORT ON CURRENT PROJECTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each major information technology project that the Secretary is carrying out as of the date of the report.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall contain, with respect to each project described in such subparagraph, information on the cost, schedule, and performance of the project as described in subsection (a) of section 8172 of such title, as so added.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, the terms “appropriate congressional committees” and “major information technology project” have the meanings given those terms in section 8171 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTER.**—

(1) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Section 8173 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a)(2) of such section shall apply with respect to contracts and agreements entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE OF REQUIREMENT FOR PROJECTS IN BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.**—Subsection (c) of section 8175 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on the first Monday in the second January beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2250, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act requires VA to report on the cost, schedule, and performance information for major information technology projects. A major information technology project is a project that exceeds \$500 million in total life cycle costs.

H.R. 2250, as amended, also requires VA to ensure that each major IT project is managed by an interdisciplinary team. The bill is necessary due to the numerous issues that the VA has had with technology modernization and management of its major IT programs. This bill provides Congress with key information to conduct proper oversight over those programs.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill. I urge all my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2250, as amended, the VA Information Technology Reform Act of 2022. Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. BANKS have worked on this legislation in the Technology Modernization Subcommittee for over 2 years.

The VA relies on information technology to deliver nearly every service and benefit to our Nation's veterans. But it is no secret that there have been many struggles with IT projects that fail to deliver. Cost and schedule overruns and poor performance are routine.

This bipartisan legislation creates new accountability standards for VA to plan, initiate, and manage large IT projects. Congress has to be informed in advance, before any money is spent, and the VA has to create a baseline to measure each project's performance against.

The legislation also reforms how VA budgets for IT and increases transparency into the Department's activities and needs.

I commend Mr. ROSENDALE for being a watchdog on this important and difficult issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 2250, the VA Information Technology Reform Act of 2022.

When I began serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was horrified to discover that Congress is shoveling roughly \$9 billion a year into VA



information technology, with disappointing results and very little useful information about how it is even being spent.

The VA's annual IT operations budget is nearly \$5.8 billion. The disastrous Electronic Health Record Modernization Program received \$2.6 billion last year alone, and several hundred million more dollars go to other IT programs annually.

To be sure, every year VA produces hundreds of pages of budget documents about IT. But when I examined them, I found very little relevance to what is actually happening and zero accountability. That is why I introduced H.R. 2250, the VA IT Reform Act. It would require VA to report on major IT projects, costs estimates, schedules, and performance goals before they begin and before any money is spent on them. If the project is approved, that information would then become baseline that progress is measured against annually.

If we had already been getting all this information, several of the VA big-ticket IT projects would have been canceled, and some would never have been started at all. Instead, we are working to contain the damage from the EHR, while still piecing together how it even began.

At the same time, VA is now on its second attempt to modernize its supply chain and its third attempt to replace its financial systems.

My legislation would also reform how VA budgets for IT. It would require the Department to rank each requested project in terms of costs, risks, and benefits, and present each office's IT needs in plain language, not the indecipherable categories that now exist.

Finally, my bill would make the VA Chief Information Officer responsible for the Financial Services Centers IT's activities and make troves of information from the Office of Management and Budget about the VA IT programs available to Congress.

Once Congress has all of this information, it is our responsibility to oversee the spending decisions VA is making. Every IT project has to improve the services and benefits our veterans receive or it should not receive a single dollar more of taxpayer money.

I thank Mr. MRVAN and Mr. BANKS for working with me on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I know this Congress, the 117th Congress, is coming to a close and I may not see you up on the rostrum and the dais again, I wanted to say mahalo for your service in our military, mahalo for your service to the people of Hawaii, mahalo for your service to the American people.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2250, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2250, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3630) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3630

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lymphedema Treatment Act".

### SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.

#### (a) COVERAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

(A) in subsection (s)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (GG), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (HH), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(II) lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in subsection (III));"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(III) LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—The term 'lymphedema compression treatment items' means standard and custom fitted gradient compression garments and other items determined by the Secretary that are—

"(1) furnished on or after January 1, 2024, to an individual with a diagnosis of lymphedema for the treatment of such condition;

"(2) primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose and for the treatment of lymphedema, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(3) prescribed by a physician (or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)) to the extent authorized under State law)."

#### (2) PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

(i) by striking "and" before "(EE)"; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "; and (FF) with respect to lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent of the lesser of the actual charge or the amount

determined under the payment basis determined under section 1834(z)".

(B) PAYMENT BASIS AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(z) PAYMENT FOR LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine an appropriate payment basis for lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)). In making such a determination, the Secretary may take into account payment rates for such items under State plans (or waivers of such plans) under title XIX, the Veterans Health Administration, and group health plans and health insurance coverage (as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act), and such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(2) FREQUENCY LIMITATION.—No payment may be made under this part for lymphedema compression treatment items furnished other than at such frequency as the Secretary may establish.

"(3) APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—In the case of lymphedema compression treatment items that are included in a competitive acquisition program in a competitive acquisition area under section 1847(a)—

"(A) the payment basis under this subsection for such items furnished in such area shall be the payment basis determined under such competitive acquisition program; and

"(B) the Secretary may use information on the payment determined under such competitive acquisition programs to adjust the payment amount otherwise determined under this subsection for an area that is not a competitive acquisition area under section 1847, and in the case of such adjustment, paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1842(b) shall not be applied."

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1847(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—Lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)) for which payment would otherwise be made under section 1834(z)."

(b) INCLUSION IN REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIERS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(20)(D), by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iv) Lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III))."

(2) in subsection (j)(5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III))."

### SEC. 3. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$7,308,000,000" and inserting "\$6,738,000,000".

### SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3630.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1600

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3630, the Lymphedema Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representative SCHAKOWSKY will help Medicare beneficiaries suffering from lymphedema access needed compression garments.

Lymphedema is a condition caused by a chronic failure of the lymphatic system that results in the accumulation of lymph fluid and swelling in various parts of the body. Lymphedema can sometimes be a congenital condition but is more often a secondary complication of common health issues like burns or cancer.

Altogether, an estimated 3 to 5 million Americans are affected by this chronic condition, and if left untreated, individuals have a higher risk of hospitalization, disability, and even death.

While there is no known cure for lymphedema, it can be effectively treated and managed. Compression therapy is a critical component of treatment.

While Medicare covers some lymphedema treatments like compression pumps, Medicare does not cover the compression garments needed for ongoing lymphedema management because it lacks the legislative authority to cover these items.

The Lymphedema Treatment Act will close the unintended gap in coverage that prevents Medicare beneficiaries from accessing medically necessary, prescribed compression garments.

I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her longtime advocacy on this issue and the more than 350 bipartisan Members who signed on in support of this legislation. This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee in July by a unanimous vote, and it will help ensure that patients with lymphedema have access to the full range of treatment they need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3630, the Lymphedema Treat-

ment Act, introduced by my friend and fellow Committee on Energy and Commerce member JAN SCHAKOWSKY, as well as the Subcommittee on Health member BUDDY CARTER, along with myself and more than 350 Members on both sides of the aisle.

This legislation would create a new Medicare benefit category, lymphedema compression treatment items, including standard and custom-fitted garments, and other items determined by HHS, for treatment of lymphedema.

As many of us know, thanks to a passionate and committed group of patient stakeholders, lymphedema is a chronic condition that may cause significant swelling and discomfort. It is often located in the arms and legs but can also occur in other parts of the body.

Unfortunately, there is no cure today for this condition, but patients are able to receive care that can mitigate some of the symptoms caused by lymphedema. One of the most basic elements of care is the application of compression garments to swollen body parts.

As it stands today, fee-for-service Medicare covers various forms of treatment for lymphedema but does not cover the basic compression supplies typically used in the regular treatment for this condition. This is a result of the outdated structure of traditional fee-for-service Medicare, which does not have an existing benefit category that works for lymphedema compression garments.

This legislation is yet another reminder that the fee-for-service Medicare as structured today under part B simply cannot keep pace with medical innovation. Private payers, including Medicare Advantage plans, have more flexibility to provide coverage for these products, especially if they add value to the care patients need.

As the popularity of Medicare Advantage demonstrates, there is a built-in incentive to provide better value for patients, meaning better outcomes and lower costs. It has been proven.

It has been discouraging to see an ever-growing number of situations where a particular drug—for instance, an entire class of Alzheimer's drugs recently restricted by CMS—or other medical products are not covered for seniors in Medicare fee-for-service when other patients in the private market, or even in Medicare Advantage, may have them covered.

I am hopeful that bills like the one that we are here to discuss today, where Congress continues to patch the inefficiencies in the Medicare program, not only benefit seniors but also help all of us recognize that seniors deserve greater Medicare reforms. Those reforms should empower patients with greater control over their healthcare decisions and more ability to tailor their health benefits to their personal needs, all with the goal of no senior being denied or having to lobby Con-

gress to get the medical products they need. It makes sense.

Finally, I am encouraged to see that the new mandatory spending in this legislation will be fully offset, and I encourage my colleagues to continue to insist that we fully offset mandatory spending now and into the future. This is responsible. It is responsible legislating.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors for this bill, H.R. 3630, and the chairman, of course, and the ranking member of the full committee. I fully support this legislation and recommend a "yes" vote on final passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the sponsor of this legislation and the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding.

I am just so happy that we see the Lymphedema Treatment Act on the floor today.

I thank my colleague on the Republican side, BUDDY CARTER, for being a cosponsor of the legislation and helping to put it forward with so many bipartisan sponsors of the legislation, over 350—what is it, 366?—cosponsors of the bill.

I look forward to passing it in the House today. There are enough Senators on the other side of the rotunda here that also have sponsored, so I look forward to it becoming the law of the land.

I thank all the advocates who worked so hard, including Heather Ferguson, who is the executive director of the Lymphedema Advocacy Group, and all the people whom she worked with to help make this pass. Heather is the mother of a son that has lymphedema. I thank all the constituents who worked so hard to make this happen.

Here is what it is about lymphedema. It is not only painful and debilitating; it is also incurable. But we are lucky that there actually is a remedy, a treatment for lymphedema.

Many of you may be familiar with it. You may not have known the name. Two-thirds of all lymphedema cases develop after cancer treatment. You see that swelling. But what we don't have is the kind of treatment that is actually needed.

Currently, Medicare does not cover these important compression garments, which is what can really help people so very much. My bill will actually finally expand access to these garments for lymphedema patients on Medicare.

This will absolutely help the 3 million Americans who have lymphedema to be able to have some of the relief that they need at a cost that they can afford. It will also reduce Medicare costs because instead of these people developing all kinds of other health

issues, they will be able to be treated with these compression garments.

Again, I thank Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, Representative BUDDY CARTER, and all the Members on both sides of the aisle. Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to endorse this wonderful bill and vote "yes."

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this is a real good bill, a bipartisan bill. We worked very hard on it, and we have a great sponsor here and a Republican sponsor in Representative BUDDY CARTER, and I urge that we pass this as soon as possible. I assume the Senate will get to work and get this done, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge passage of this bill, another bipartisan bill where we all worked together from the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3630, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## ENSURING PHONE AND INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ACT OF 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022".*

### SEC. 2. REPORTS ON ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS THROUGH QUALIFYING PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 calendar years after the calendar year during which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) enrollment in the Lifeline program by individuals participating in each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment; and

(2) enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program by individuals participating in each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment.

(b) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress identifying outreach and publicity efforts to promote participation and enrollment in the Lifeline program and, separately, the Affordable Connectivity Program.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM QUALIFYING PROGRAM.—The term "Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying program" means the programs set forth in paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (6) of section 54.1800(j) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) LIFELINE QUALIFYING PROGRAM.—The term "Lifeline qualifying program" means the programs set forth in subsections (a)(2) and (b) of section 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4275, the Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022.

Congress has long recognized the critical importance of ensuring that everyone in this country can access basic communication tools. Indeed, this body wisely included as a cornerstone of the Communications Act the directive that rapid, efficient, and nationwide communications service must be available to "all people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex." The Communications Act also said that all Americans must have access to adequate facilities and reasonable charges.

There are two programs, the Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program, that play a critical role in helping us advance these long-held, universal service goals. They move us closer to closing the digital divide by allowing millions of American families across the country to fit high-speed broadband internet access into their budgets.

Both programs are effectively targeted to families that need the help most, including those who are eligible for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, and the Veterans and Survivors Pension benefit.

As we all know too well, a broadband connection is necessary to participate

in our modern economy and society. Families without broadband are left without equal educational, career, healthcare, and economic opportunities compared to those with this essential service.

Continuing to strengthen these programs and make them more efficient and accessible not only benefits those who sign up but all Americans. That is why I support this bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives LURIA and KATKO. It provides us with more transparency into these programs and can help us better identify opportunities to maximize their support.

I commend Ranking Member RODGERS and Representative LATTA for working with me to advance this legislation on a bipartisan basis. It advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously in July by a vote of 48-0.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to likewise support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4275, the Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act, which was unanimously reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The FCC currently administers two subsidy programs to help low-income Americans get connected, the Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. The FCC uses criteria such as household income or participation in other Federal subsidy programs to determine eligibility.

The FCC's inspector general identifies fraud and risk in certain qualifying programs, highlighting the importance of congressional oversight.

□ 1615

H.R. 4275 will help provide Congress with important information regarding how low-income Americans qualify for these programs as we continue our oversight duties.

Specifically, this bill will require the FCC to report to Congress on which eligibility criteria Americans use to qualify for the lifeline of affordable connectivity programs. In carrying out this report, the FCC will be limited to using existing data they currently can access to verify eligibility. It also requires the FCC to report on the outreach and publicity efforts to promote enrollment in these programs.

This legislation is an important first step toward oversight of the FCC and its administration of these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4275.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

### MANUFACTURING.GOV ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6290) to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6290

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Manufacturing.gov Act”.

#### SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING.GOV HUB.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Commerce, shall modify the manufacturing.gov website by establishing a section of the website to be known as the “manufacturing.gov hub”.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The manufacturing.gov hub established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) serve as the primary hub for information relating to every Federal manufacturing program, including the programs identified in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “U.S. Manufacturing” (GAO 17–240), published on March 28, 2017;

(2) provide the contact information of relevant program offices carrying out the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1);

(3) provide an avenue for public input and feedback relating to—

(A) the functionality of the website of the Department of Commerce;

(B) the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1); and

(C) any other manufacturing-related challenges experienced by manufacturers in the United States;

(4) establish web pages within the hub that shall focus on—

(A) technology and research and development;

(B) trade;

(C) workforce development and training;

(D) industrial commons and supply chains; and

(E) small and medium manufacturers; and

(5) use machine learning to—

(A) identify frequently asked questions; and

(B) disseminate to the public answers to the questions identified under subparagraph (A).

(d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6290.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6290, the Manufacturing.gov Act.

America’s competitiveness helped build the largest, most dynamic economy in the world. But America’s competitiveness is facing unprecedented challenges.

Once the envy of the world, our manufacturing base has faced steady headwinds for decades now. Between 2002 and 2020, our Nation’s share of global manufacturing activity declined from 28 percent to just over 17 percent. Five million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000. Investment in America’s small and medium manufacturers, the bedrock of our industrial might, has also declined over the last 20 years by over \$200 billion.

To support economic growth and opportunity, we must ensure that the United States has a vibrant, thriving industrial base. It must be capable of developing the technologies and manufacturing the products essential for economic development and prosperity in the 21st century. Fortunately, there are dozens of programs across the Federal Government that provide support for American manufacturing, but today, there is no centralized repository of information about these programs.

Manufacturing programs cannot have their intended effect if not used, and programs cannot be used if potential beneficiaries are not aware that they exist.

The Manufacturing.gov Act requires the Department of Commerce to ensure that the Manufacturing.gov website serves as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs. This critical web page will arm beneficiaries with the information they need to tap into these vital manufacturing programs.

The Manufacturing.gov Act was unanimously reported out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 54–0 in July.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise today in support of H.R. 6290, the Manufacturing.gov Act.

H.R. 6290 will require the Department of Commerce to designate a portion of the Manufacturing.gov website to serve as a source for businesses to have access to information relating to Federal manufacturing programs.

As part of the website, the Department of Commerce must make available contact information for relevant program offices carrying out manufacturing programs, web pages that focus on topics such as trade, workforce development, and small and medium manufacturers, as well as provide an avenue for public input and feedback related to Federal manufacturing programs.

Our country faced many challenges, as our chairman said, during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially our manufacturing businesses.

I thank Representative TONKO, Representative AXNE, and Representative UPTON, former chairman of the full committee, for their work on this legislation to provide such businesses with resources to help them get back on their feet. This is so vitally needed, Mr. Speaker.

I urge my colleagues to pass this particular piece of legislation, and let’s get it to the Senate as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the sponsor of this bill and chair of our Subcommittee on the Environment and Climate Change.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for yielding.

The Manufacturing.gov Act is a vital piece of legislation that supports American manufacturers, boosting our economy, our job growth, and our global competitiveness.

The COVID crisis has strained our supply chains and limited factory production abilities, overwhelmingly hurting the middle-class workers who drive our Nation’s economy and our industry.

Congress has a duty to support manufacturers and their workers in every way possible, and that includes making it easier to navigate what Federal resources are available to them.

The Manufacturing.gov Act offers a simple, bipartisan solution to do just that. This legislation establishes a one-stop hub to centralize the 58 different Federal manufacturing programs that span some 11 Federal agencies.

It also encourages public feedback by offering an online avenue for people to

submit comments and concerns regarding such programs.

Now is the time to secure our supply chain and give local manufacturers in my home State of New York and across our great Nation the tools they need to identify the Federal support they will need to help them flourish.

I thank Representatives AXNE and UPTON, as well as Senator PETERS, for being great collaborators on this bill. I urge my colleagues to come together to bolster our United States manufacturing arena.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage us to pass this bill as soon as possible in a bipartisan fashion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this on a bipartisan basis. It is certainly a goal of this Congress to bring back manufacturing and do whatever we can to encourage domestic manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6290, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5441

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2022” or the “PAST Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT UNDER HORSE PROTECTION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

“(1)(A) The term ‘action device’ means any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can—

“(i) rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg, so as to cause friction; or

“(ii) strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint, or pastern of the horse.

“(B) Such term does not include soft rubber or soft leather bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6)(A) The term ‘participate’ means engaging in any activity with respect to a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, including—

“(i) transporting or arranging for the transportation of a horse to or from a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction;

“(ii) personally giving instructions to an exhibitor; or

“(iii) being knowingly present in a warm-up area, inspection area, or other area at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that spectators are not permitted to enter.

“(B) Such term does not include spectating.”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Section 3 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting “and soring horses for such purposes” after “horses in intrastate commerce”; and

(B) by inserting “in many ways, including by creating unfair competition, by deceiving the spectating public and horse buyers, and by negatively impacting horse sales” before the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(6) the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture has determined that the program through which the Secretary inspects horses is inadequate for preventing soring;

“(7) historically, Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses have been subjected to soring; and

“(8) despite regulations in effect related to inspection for purposes of ensuring that horses are not sore, violations of this Act continue to be prevalent in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse breeds.”.

(c) HORSE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS.—Section 4 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1823) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentences: “In the first instance in which the Secretary determines that a horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse from being shown or exhibited for a period of not less than 180 days. In the second instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than one year. In the third instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than three years.”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(c)(1)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation requirements for the Department of Agriculture to license, train, assign, and oversee persons qualified to detect and diagnose a horse which is sore or to otherwise inspect horses at horse shows, horse exhibitions, or horse sales or auctions, for hire by

the management of such events, for the purposes of enforcing this Act.

“(B) No person shall be issued a license under this subsection unless such person is free from conflicts of interest, as defined by the Secretary in the regulations issued under subparagraph (A).

“(C) If the Secretary determines that the performance of a person licensed in accordance with subparagraph (A) is unsatisfactory, the Secretary may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, revoke the license issued to such person.

“(D) In issuing licenses under this subsection, the Secretary shall give a preference to persons who are licensed or accredited veterinarians.

“(E) Licensure of a person in accordance with the requirements prescribed under this subsection shall not be construed as authorizing such person to conduct inspections in a manner other than that prescribed for inspections by the Secretary (or the Secretary’s representative) under subsection (e).

“(2)(A) Not later than 30 days before the date on which a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction begins, the management of such show, exhibition, or sale or auction may notify the Secretary of the intent of the management to hire a person or persons licensed under this subsection and assigned by the Secretary to conduct inspections at such show, exhibition, or sale or auction.

“(B) After such notification, the Secretary shall assign a person or persons licensed under this subsection to conduct inspections at the horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.

“(3) A person licensed by the Secretary to conduct inspections under this subsection shall issue a citation with respect to any violation of this Act recorded during an inspection and notify the Secretary of each such violation not later than five days after the date on which a citation was issued with respect to such violation.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) The Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture, and update as frequently as the Secretary determines is necessary, information on violations of this Act for the purposes of allowing the management of a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction to determine if an individual is in violation of this Act.”.

(d) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Section 5 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1824) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “or (C) respecting” and inserting “(C), or (D) respecting”; and

(B) by striking “and (D)” and inserting “(D) causing a horse to become sore or directing another person to cause a horse to become sore for the purpose of showing, exhibiting, selling, auctioning, or offering for sale the horse in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, and (E)”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “appoint” and inserting “hire”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “appoint” and inserting “hire”; and

(B) by striking “qualified”;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking “appointed” and inserting “hired”;

(5) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “appointed” and inserting “hired”; and

(B) by inserting “that the horse is sore” after “the Secretary”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(12) The use of an action device on any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, a

Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.

“(13) The use of a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band, or other device or material at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that—

“(A) is placed on, inserted in, or attached to any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, a Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse;

“(B) is constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse; and

“(C) is not strictly protective or therapeutic in nature.”.

(e) VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.—Section 6 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any person who knowingly violates section 5” and inserting “Any person who knowingly violates section 5 or the regulations issued under such section, including any violation recorded during an inspection conducted in accordance with section 4(c) or 4(e)”; and

(ii) by striking “more than \$3,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.” and inserting “more than \$5,000, or imprisoned for not more than three years, or both, for each such violation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by striking “(2)”; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, and moving the margins of such paragraphs (as so redesignated) two ems to the left; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Any person who knowingly fails to obey an order of disqualification shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$5,000 for each failure to obey such an order, imprisoned for not more than three years, or both.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “section 5 of this Act” and inserting “section 5 or the regulations issued under such section”; and

(ii) by striking “\$2,000” and inserting “\$4,000”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) Any person who fails to pay a licensed inspector hired under section 4(c) shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$4,000 for each such violation.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “, or otherwise participating in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction” before “for a period of not less than one year”; and

(ii) by striking “any subsequent” and inserting “the second”;

(B) by inserting before “Any person who knowingly fails” the following: “For the third or any subsequent violation, a person may be permanently disqualified by order of the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary, from showing or exhibiting any horse, judging or managing any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, or otherwise participating in, including financing the participation of other individuals in, any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction (regardless of whether walking horses are shown, exhibited, sold, auctioned, or offered for sale at the horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction).”; and

(C) by striking “\$3,000” each place it appears and inserting “\$5,000”.

(f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section, including regulations prescribing the requirements under subsection (c) of section 4 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1823(c)), as amended by subsection (c)(3).

(g) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

### SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5441.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2021.

This important bill will protect horses from cruel and inhumane practices. It is necessary because today there are gaps in our animal welfare laws that have left these innocent animals vulnerable to abuse.

Despite a national ban, the abusive and barbaric practice of soring continues. Soring is a process of applying an irritating or blistering agent to the limb of a horse to accentuate the horse's gait, which may cause a horse to move with exaggerated high steps. In the 1950s and 1960s, some exhibitors used soring to improve the performance of show horses. To end this abuse, Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to prohibit soring at horse shows, horse sales, and other horse exhibitions.

Unfortunately, despite this prohibition, soring continues today. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General found that the USDA's program for inspecting horses for soring does not adequately prevent abuse. According to the Inspector General, the program faces significant limitations. There are inadequate inspections and

enforcement as the USDA relies on industry inspectors with inherent conflicts of interest. The Inspector General also found that there is insufficient information sharing and distribution, which has made it more difficult to punish violators and enforce suspensions.

The PAST Act will help end this intolerable abuse of horses by strengthening the protections and penalties for soring. This legislation requires the USDA to prescribe regulations for the licensing, training, assignment, and oversight of people responsible for detecting and diagnosing a sore horse. It also increases penalties to imprisonment up to 3 years and fines up to \$5,000 per violation. The legislation mandates that the USDA publish on a website information on violations to improve the enforcement of suspensions.

I thank Representative COHEN for his leadership on this legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce with strong bipartisan support in September.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill to help us bring an end to this cruel treatment of horses, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2021, or the PAST Act.

Soring is the practice of using chemicals, sadly inflicting pain on the front feet of a horse when they touch the ground, with the intent to cause the horse to quickly raise its feet high off the ground.

This legislation will require the Secretary of Agriculture to issue rules for licensing, training, assigning, and overseeing persons to be qualified to detect and diagnose a sore horse and will prohibit the use of certain devices on horse breeds that have a history of being sored. This legislation will also increase capabilities for the USDA to enforce soring violations under the Horse Protection Act.

□ 1630

Americans throughout the country hold horses in high regard, myself included, including constituents, of course, in my district, who care deeply for the humane treatment of these beautiful animals.

I thank Representative COHEN and the 263 cosponsors of this legislation for their work to protect horses, and I urge my colleagues to support this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire committee for their work in passing this bill out of committee. I know it was somewhat contentious. It shouldn't have been, but it was.



I rise in strong support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, acronym, the PAST Act, which I proudly introduced with several prime cosponsors who worked on it, including BRIAN FITZPATRICK, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and VERN BUCHANAN. Mr. BUCHANAN, like Mr. BILIRAKIS, is a Member of the class of 2006, of which I am, as well.

The PAST Act will shut down the cruel practice of horse soring, which has been described here on the floor. It is a horrendous practice that horse trainers have used in the Tennessee Walking, Spotted Saddle, and Racking Horse shows.

The horses have a beautiful gait to start with. They have a natural gait, a smooth, natural gait. It is revered in Tennessee. It used to be Tennessee Walkers paraded at the University of Tennessee football games to great applause and great thrill of the fans.

However, some people, to make it even more imposing, took away their natural gait, which is enough of a miracle and enjoyment to watch, and put in these soring practices to get a high gait, extremely high gait, known as the Big Lick. The Big Lick is wrong. To achieve the Big Lick, horse trainers irritate or blister a horse's forelegs through the application of caustic chemicals such as mustard oil, cut the horse's hooves painfully short, or use mechanical devices to inflict pain, all of which is reprehensible. Anyone who cares about horses realizes they have lives and senses, and as well, they suffer pain just like every other animal does.

Far too often, those involved in showing the Tennessee Walking Horses have turned a blind eye to this abusive act of the trainers. They do little to try to police it, and the penalties are so minor it does nothing to prevent this barbaric act.

I have led this legislation for years. My chief of staff, Marilyn Dillihay, has been strongly supportive of this. As we all know, we work for our constituents and then for our chief of staff.

The PAST Act would codify key elements of the Horse Protection Act rule that the USDA finalized in January of 2017 by eliminating the failed system of industry self-policing and prohibited the use of devices that are integral to the soring practice and Big Lick. It would also strengthen penalties and increase consequences for individuals caught soring a horse.

I thank Chairman PALLONE and Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for their support and work on this bill. I also particularly thank Priscilla Presley, Elvis' widow. Priscilla and Elvis had Tennessee Walkers at Graceland. They loved their Tennessee Walking Horses, which had a natural gait, and Priscilla has lobbied on this for many years and come to many activities, encouraging the passage of this act.

Priscilla Presley is a pretty amazing human being, and this is one of the areas where she has surpassed just being the spouse of the rock and roll

legend, Elvis Presley, and being a star in her own right in many ways.

I thank the 263 bipartisan Members who cosponsored the bill and the hundreds of stakeholder groups and individuals who have lent their support, including the Humane Society, the American Horse Council, U.S. Equestrian Federation, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, the State veterinary organizations of all 50 States, National Sheriffs' Association, and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

The plague of soring has marred the Tennessee Walking Horse and related breeds for more than six decades. I am proud to lead the fight to end it. We are going to end it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), the great State of Tennessee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me time to speak on this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from the Tennessee Farm Bureau and Kentucky Farm Bureau Federations opposing H.R. 5441.

NOVEMBER 14, 2022.

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: Please accept this letter as a statement of opposition to H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act by the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Tennessee Farm Bureau.

The PAST Act is misleading in its strategies and purpose and sets a dangerous precedent for animal agriculture. Please take the time to review it closely and understand this initiative and the agenda of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). While the PAST Act expressly targets Walking Horses, this push by the HSUS brings to question which segment of animal-based agriculture will be targeted next.

Supporters of the PAST Act argue the bill will "eliminate soring" within the Walking Horse Industry. However, soring is essentially nonexistent today. The bill professes to end soring by banning hoof pads and action devices which are used in Walking Horse performance shows, and implies such items cause soring. Hoof pads and action devices do not cause soring. Hoof pads are used to provide protection from ground force, to accentuate movement, and balance motion. These pads are used in many breeds other than the Walking Horse including the American Paint Horse, American Quarter Horse, American Saddlebred, and Morgan breeds. An action device is a band/chain weighing six (6) ounces or less. We are not aware of a study that indicates action devices or pads produce pain or cause tissue damage.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is the most inspected horse in the world. The industry and its shows maintain a compliance rate with the Horse Protection Act that averages 99 percent. This rate is significant considering the inspection process today is almost 100 percent subjective.

The PAST Act eliminates the organizations established by Congress in the original Horse Protection Act called Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs). These independent organizations provide inspectors for shows and are trained and certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Without HIOs, the PAST Act requires an increase in the

USDA's workforce as well as additional employees for the U.S. Department of Justice. The Congressional Budget Office numbers reflect this cost.

We urge you to not accept the mistreatment claims from years past as true today. Visit a Walking Horse farm and see the horses. Visit with a horse owner, trainer, farrier and their veterinarians. Contact your state Farm Bureau, the Tennessee Farm Bureau or the Kentucky Farm Bureau if you want assistance arranging a visit or tour.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 5441.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

ERIC MAYBERRY,  
*President, Tennessee*  
*Farm Bureau.*

MARK HANEY,  
*President, Kentucky*  
*Farm Bureau.*

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 5441, the PAST Act. As an eighth-generation farmer and Tennessean, the grand tradition of Tennessee Walking Horses is among my earliest and fondest memories. We take great pride in the fact that the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration draws neighbors and tourists alike each year to Shelbyville, Tennessee, for our world-class showcase.

However, over the years, this grand tradition has, on occasion, been marred by a few bad actors looking to gain a competitive edge at the unfair expense of the hundreds of other Walking Horse exhibitors who do things right, and at the grossly unacceptable expense of the horses themselves that suffer from the cruel and unconscionable technique known in the industry as soring.

Those who sore our Tennessee Walking Horses compromise the integrity of the competition, put a stain on what has long been a wonderful family-oriented tradition, and by far most importantly subject our prized Tennessee Walking Horses to harm and suffering. I can assure you that we in Tennessee stand strongly against this vile technique.

My strong disgust to soring is actually why I rise today in opposition to the PAST Act. This bill is not the best solution to end this cruel practice. While I appreciate the sincere motives of those supporting this bill, I call on my colleagues to consider another better solution.

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 6341, the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021, authored by my friend and colleague from Tennessee, Congressman SCOTT DESJARLAIS. This bill works to end soring in another way that is fair to those acting properly and humanely and provides timely consequences for those who are not.

Inspections must be objective, but the PAST Act does not correct the subjective process currently used. My colleague's bill, H.R. 6341, creates a framework for consistent, scientific, and objective inspections. The bill also prevents conflicts of interest and suspends horses from shows if they are found to be sore.

Industry wide, the current compliance rate is between 96 and 99 percent, which is an increase from the 92 to 95 percent compliance rate that the industry had when we debated this bill last Congress. This is a 4 percent increase in less than 3 years. These compliance rates are based on USDA standards.

Overall, the Walking Horse industry has a USDA compliance rate higher than even the food industry achieves. With that record, the rate of catching bad actors at this point is, of course, extremely low. Those low rates mean we must be vigilant if we are going to find and stop the remaining bad actors. Vigilance will require a new system.

The PAST Act does not create a scientific, objective process for inspections, and until we have that, the remaining bad actors will continue to go under the radar, while those acting with integrity could be treated unfairly. The PAST Act is the wrong approach and will actually be counterproductive.

It is because of these concerns that I will oppose the PAST Act today and call upon my colleagues to also oppose it and instead stand with me in truly stopping soring by supporting H.R. 6341, the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), the chair of the Animal Protection Caucus.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in allowing me to speak on this. I appreciate the leadership of Mr. COHEN. This is the culmination, hopefully, of years of struggle to try and end this barbaric practice.

There are those who are apologists for the industry. It shouldn't take this long, and repeated efforts, with hundreds of cosponsors, Congress after Congress after Congress. It has been my privilege to work with Mr. Whitfield from Kentucky, Ted Yoho, KURT SCHRADER, our colleague from Oregon, and lately the leadership of Mr. COHEN, raising the banner and moving forward.

We should have zero tolerance for this barbaric practice. Forcing horses to be tortured, looking at the devices that they use to train them to have that distinctive gait. Concrete shoes.

We have had hearing after hearing here on Capitol Hill, and whenever we have an opportunity for people to be exposed to the abuses of this industry and see these barbaric practices, people marvel that we haven't been able to stop it.

Part of the problem is the self-regulation of the industry and that there isn't a sense of urgency to stop torturing these animals.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pleased to work repeatedly with colleagues on a bipartisan basis to stop it. I don't know what the compliance rate is, whether it is 96, 97, 90. The fact is, we are talking

about hundreds of horses being tortured and for no good reason.

I strongly support the legislation from my colleague and the vast coalition that has been put in place to end this barbaric practice.

Some of the champions that have been involved in the past, like the Humane Society, have been there repeatedly, working to get the support, get the cosponsors, get it passed; but despite overwhelming support, despite a terrible record in protecting horses, it has taken far too long.

I am hopeful that this Congress will finally put an end to the barbaric practice, stop temporizing, stop apologizing for those who abuse horses and end this horrific practice once and for all.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the PAST Act. This legislation attempts to eliminate the Walking Horse industry, which is prominent in my congressional district. The vast majority of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is located in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is the most inspected horse in the world under current law, with both pre-show and post-competition inspections performed by both USDA inspectors and horse industry organization inspectors. The PAST Act eliminates the industry inspection entities and replaces them with new employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Justice Department, increasing bureaucracy and cost to the taxpayer.

The PAST Act is not widely supported by the horse industry. In fact, the vast majority of the active Tennessee Walking Horse industry stakeholders in my district oppose this bill and instead support Representative SCOTT DESJARLAIS' commonsense reforms and modernization of the Horse Protection Act contained in H.R. 6341, of which I am a cosponsor.

This bill fails to promote objective, science-based inspections. I oppose the PAST Act and how it will lead to the hiring of more government bureaucrats while failing to protect the horse industry from biased inspections. I encourage my fellow Members to vote against this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, the Preventing All Soring Tactics Act. As a member of the Animal Protection Caucus, I believe, like my colleagues, that we should be urging all of our colleagues to commit to ensuring our government is doing everything we can to promote animal welfare.

The bottom line is this: The antiquated and inhumane practice of soring intentionally inflicts pain on show

horses for the mere purpose of winning a ribbon in a competition. Our bipartisan PAST Act, which has passed overwhelmingly, as has been pointed out, will give a voice to these suffering animals and will finally put an end to this cruel practice by banning devices integral to soring, strengthening penalties, and also holding abusers accountable for their crimes against innocent horses.

I am proud again to join Representatives COHEN, SCHAKOWSKY, and BUCHANAN in championing this bipartisan bill; which, as was mentioned, passed this House last Congress on an overwhelming bipartisan basis. I hope that after passage today it will receive swift consideration by our colleagues in the Senate.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish this bill would pass in a bipartisan fashion, so that we can get it to the Senate. I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge support on a bipartisan basis for this important bill to protect horses, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 5441 the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act of 2021. This act is an unnecessary overreach that will give the federal government the ability to inflict undue harassment upon the Tennessee Walking Horse community. The call for this kind of federal oversight has been promulgated by targeted misinformation campaigns.

This legislation will add a layer of red tape that will be purposeless, and taxpayers will likely be made to bear the burden of this cost. The Tennessee Walking Horse industry has a multibillion-dollar impact on rural communities in my state and even more specifically in my district. It provides jobs to over 20,000 people and is a tourism staple. It will place an undue ban on equipment making horse shows and events impossible to put on. Equine experts themselves have said these bans are not based on scientific evidence.

No one condones the abuse of animals, but the oversight of this industry should be left up to local officials who know it best. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 6341 the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021 which will ensure that the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is regulated by state agencies and industry experts, not Washington bureaucrats. Those who participate in the abuse of these animals must be held accountable and brought to justice. For this reason, I implore to vote no on H.R. 5441 and support sensible and practical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

# COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY ONLINE MARKETPLACES TO INFORM CONSUMERS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5502) to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5502

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act” or the “INFORM Consumers Act”.

## SEC. 2. COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY ONLINE MARKETPLACES TO INFORM CONSUMERS.

(a) COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.—

(1) COLLECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide, not later than 10 days after qualifying as a high-volume third party seller on the platform, the following information to the online marketplace:

(i) BANK ACCOUNT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—A bank account number, or, if such seller does not have a bank account, the name of the payee for payments issued by the online marketplace to such seller.

(II) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The bank account or payee information required under subclause (I) may be provided by the seller in the following ways:

(aa) To the online marketplace.

(bb) To a payment processor or other third party contracted by the online marketplace to maintain such information, provided that the online marketplace ensures that it can obtain such information within 3 business days from such payment processor or other third party.

(ii) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Contact information for such seller as follows:

(I) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is an individual, the individual’s name.

(II) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is not an individual, one of the following forms of contact information:

(aa) A copy of a valid government-issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the individual’s name.

(bb) A copy of a valid government-issued record or tax document that includes the business name and physical address of such seller.

(iii) TAX ID.—A business tax identification number, or, if such seller does not have a business tax identification number, a taxpayer identification number.

(iv) WORKING EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER.—A current working email address and phone number for such seller.

(B) NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE; ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) periodically, but not less than annually, notify any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform of the requirement to keep any information collected under subparagraph (A) current; and

(ii) require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to, not later than 10 days after receiving the notice under clause (i), electronically certify that—

(I) the seller has provided any changes to such information to the online marketplace, if any such changes have occurred; or

(II) there have been no changes to such seller’s information.

(C) SUSPENSION.—In the event that a high-volume third party seller does not provide the information or certification required under this paragraph, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide such information or certification not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until such seller provides such information or certification.

(2) VERIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) verify the information collected under paragraph (1)(A) not later than 10 days after such collection; and

(ii) verify any change to such information not later than 10 days after being notified of such change by a high-volume third party seller under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PRESUMPTION OF VERIFICATION.—In the case of a high-volume third party seller that provides a copy of a valid government-issued tax document, any information contained in such document shall be presumed to be verified as of the date of issuance of such document.

(3) DATA USE LIMITATION.—Data collected solely to comply with the requirements of this section may not be used for any other purpose unless required by law.

(4) DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENT.—An online marketplace shall implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, appropriate to the nature of the data and the purposes for which the data will be used, to protect the data collected to comply with the requirements of this section from unauthorized use, disclosure, access, destruction, or modification.

(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) require any high-volume third party seller with an aggregate total of \$20,000 or more in annual gross revenues on such online marketplace, and that uses such online marketplace’s platform, to provide the information described in subparagraph (B) to the online marketplace; and

(ii) disclose the information described in subparagraph (B) to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner—

(I) on the product listing page (including via hyperlink); or

(II) in the order confirmation message or other document or communication made to the consumer after the purchase is finalized and in the consumer’s account transaction history.

(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subparagraph is the following:

(i) Subject to paragraph (2), the identity of the high-volume third party seller, including—

(I) the full name of the seller, which may include the seller name or seller’s company name, or the name by which the seller or company operates on the online marketplace;

(II) the physical address of the seller; and

(III) contact information for the seller, to allow for the direct, unhindered communication with high-volume third party sellers by users of the online marketplace, including—

(aa) a current working phone number;

(bb) a current working email address; or

(cc) other means of direct electronic messaging (which may be provided to such seller by the online marketplace), provided that the requirements of this item shall not prevent an online marketplace from monitoring communications between high-volume third party sellers and users of the online marketplace for fraud, abuse, or spam.

(ii) Whether the high-volume third party seller used a different seller to supply the consumer product to the consumer upon purchase, and, upon the request of an authenticated purchaser, the information described in clause (i) relating to any such seller that supplied the consumer product to the purchaser, if such seller is different than the high-volume third party seller listed on the product listing prior to purchase.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon the request of a high-volume third party seller, an online marketplace may provide for partial disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i) in the following situations:

(i) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a business address and only has a residential street address, or has a combined business and residential address, the online marketplace may—

(I) disclose only the country and, if applicable, the State in which such seller resides; and

(II) inform consumers that there is no business address available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(ii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller is a business that has a physical address for product returns, the online marketplace may disclose the seller’s physical address for product returns.

(iii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a phone number other than a personal phone number, the online marketplace shall inform consumers that there is no phone number available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller’s email address or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.—If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high-volume third party seller has made a false representation to the online marketplace in order to justify the provision of a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) or that a high-volume third party seller who has requested and received a provision for a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable time frame to consumer inquiries submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to respond not later than 10

days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller unless such seller consents to the disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) **REPORTING MECHANISM.**—An online marketplace shall disclose to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product listing of any high-volume third party seller a reporting mechanism that allows for electronic and telephonic reporting of suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace.

(4) **COMPLIANCE.**—If a high-volume third party seller does not comply with the requirements to provide and disclose information under this subsection, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide or disclose such information not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until the seller complies with such requirements.

(c) **ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.**—A violation of subsection (a) or (b) by an online marketplace shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall enforce subsections (a) and (b) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) **PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.**—Any person that violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) **REGULATIONS.**—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the collection, verification, or disclosure of information under this section, provided that such regulations are limited to what is necessary to collect, verify, and disclose such information.

(4) **AUTHORITY PRESERVED.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(d) **ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that any online marketplace has violated or is violating this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that affects one or more residents of that State, the attorney general of the State may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States, to—

(A) enjoin further such violation by the defendant;

(B) enforce compliance with this section or such regulation;

(C) obtain civil penalties in the amount provided for under subsection (c);

(D) obtain other remedies permitted under State law; and

(E) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State.

(2) **NOTICE.**—The attorney general of a State shall provide prior written notice of any action under paragraph (1) to the Commission and provide the Commission with a copy of the complaint in the action, except in any case in which such prior notice is not

feasible, in which case the attorney general shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action.

(3) **INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSION.**—Upon receiving notice under paragraph (2), the Commission shall have the right—

(A) to intervene in the action;

(B) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein; and

(C) to file petitions for appeal.

(4) **LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.**—If the Commission has instituted a civil action for violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section, no State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may bring a separate action under paragraph (1) during the pendency of that action against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that is alleged in the complaint. A State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may join a civil action for a violation of this section or regulation promulgated under this section filed by the Commission.

(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of bringing a civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, from exercising the powers conferred on such chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, administer oaths or affirmations, or compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(6) **ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so, except for any private person on behalf of the State attorney general, may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

(e) **SEVERABILITY.**—If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section and the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected by the invalidation.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) **CONSUMER PRODUCT.**—The term “consumer product” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty—Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act (15 U.S.C. 2301) and section 700.1 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) **HIGH-VOLUME THIRD PARTY SELLER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “high-volume third party seller” means a participant on an online marketplace’s platform who is a third party seller and, in any continuous 12-month period during the previous 24 months, has entered into 200 or more discrete sales or transactions of new or unused consumer products and an aggregate total of \$5,000 or more in gross revenues.

(B) **CLARIFICATION.**—For purposes of calculating the number of discrete sales or transactions or the aggregate gross revenues under subparagraph (A), an online marketplace shall only be required to count sales or transactions made through the online marketplace and for which payment was proc-

essed by the online marketplace, either directly or through its payment processor.

(4) **ONLINE MARKETPLACE.**—The term “online marketplace” means any person or entity that operates a consumer-directed electronically based or accessed platform that—

(A) includes features that allow for, facilitate, or enable third party sellers to engage in the sale, purchase, payment, storage, shipping, or delivery of a consumer product in the United States;

(B) is used by one or more third party sellers for such purposes; and

(C) has a contractual or similar relationship with consumers governing their use of the platform to purchase consumer products.

(5) **SELLER.**—The term “seller” means a person who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product through an online marketplace’s platform.

(6) **THIRD PARTY SELLER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “third party seller” means any seller, independent of an online marketplace, who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product in the United States through such online marketplace’s platform.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “third party seller” does not include, with respect to an online marketplace—

(i) a seller who operates the online marketplace’s platform; or

(ii) a business entity that has—

(I) made available to the general public the entity’s name, business address, and working contact information;

(II) an ongoing contractual relationship with the online marketplace to provide the online marketplace with the manufacture, distribution, wholesaling, or fulfillment of shipments of consumer products; and

(III) provided to the online marketplace identifying information, as described in subsection (a), that has been verified in accordance with that subsection.

(7) **VERIFY.**—The term “verify” means to confirm information provided to an online marketplace pursuant to this section, which may include the use of one or more methods that enable the online marketplace to reliably determine that any information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to the seller or an individual acting on the seller’s behalf, not misappropriated, and not falsified.

(g) **RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.**—No State or political subdivision of a State, or territory of the United States, may establish or continue in effect any law, regulation, rule, requirement, or standard that conflicts with the requirements of this section.

(h) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5502.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5502, the Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail

Marketplaces for Consumers Act, also known as the INFORM Consumers Act.

In the 21st century, e-commerce is no longer a luxury but a necessity for millions of Americans seeking to purchase household essentials. For thousands of businesses across the country, e-commerce sites serve as a vital platform connecting American producers to consumers worldwide.

Regrettably, online marketplaces have become pervasive sources of counterfeit, defective, and unsafe goods. The Government Accountability Office found that 20 of 47 items it purchased from third-party sellers on popular consumer websites were counterfeit.

Sixteen percent of counterfeit products seized in fiscal year 2018 posed a direct risk to health, safety, and security. Such frauds steal market share from legitimate businesses and can cause severe reputational damage to the companies and products they impersonate.

The INFORM Consumers Act will help curb the deluge of counterfeit, defective, and unsafe products on e-commerce sites. The bill requires these sites to display critical information about high-volume sellers, including contact information, business tax ID numbers, and working email addresses and phone numbers. Such transparency will help prevent those fake and unsafe goods from getting into our homes and empower consumers and businesses to seek recourse.

I commend Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY and Ranking Member BILIRAKIS for coming together on this bill. It passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote last November.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help protect consumers by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5502, the INFORM Consumers Act.

This is a big deal, Mr. Speaker. It really is. We worked really hard to get consensus on this particular bill in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I commend the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee; the ranking member, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS; and the chair of the subcommittee, my colleague, JAN SCHAKOWSKY. She is the lead sponsor of the bill, and I am the Republican sponsor of the bill. It is a great accomplishment.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when physical storefronts were unable to open their doors, many consumers turned to online marketplaces for all of their goods. However, with such a rise in online purchases, criminals saw a new way to prey upon innocent consumers.

These storefronts were now bombarded with thousands of similar products with little to no information about the background of the goods.

Some of the goods available were originally stolen from retail stores, counterfeited—and this happens in all our congressional districts—counterfeited from a foreign nation, or even made with dangerous components or forced labor.

That is why this bipartisan, bicameral legislation is necessary to increase transparency and safety online, and I am proud to help co-lead this bill with the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

If H.R. 5502 is signed into law—and I think it will be—consumers and storefronts will be armed with information to understand where these products come from and whether they are real or not. That is not much to ask for.

It also provides protections to our small sellers and local mom-and-pop stores whose privacy is protected while also being able to operate with clear guidelines and one set of rules for doing business in all 50 States.

The INFORM Consumers Act establishes a uniform national standard to protect consumers from bad actors and online marketplaces by requiring certain large sellers of new and used consumer goods to verify their contact information, such as email, phone number, and business tax ID, within days of being listed as a high-volume seller on an online platform.

I thank, again, Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY, for working with me in good faith to make this a strong product with broad consensus from Congress—it takes both parties to get these things done—and from a diverse set of stakeholders like Etsy, Poshmark, eBay, Amazon, but also retail industry leaders such as Home Depot, Walgreens, and Walmart.

The support around this legislation demonstrates what happens when Congress works together to move important legislation that will protect all Americans. That was our goal. I am glad to see that this bill will move forward in regular order, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation out of the House today. Let's get this signed into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the sponsor of this legislation and the chair of the subcommittee from which it came.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank so many in the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work. I want to say a special thank-you to GUS BILIRAKIS, who is the Republican cosponsor of this very important and bipartisan legislation. I also want to ditto all the words that he said about this important bill.

What we know is that the INFORM Consumers Act, H.R. 5502, protects American consumers when they shop online.

Counterfeit and stolen goods have become readily available on popular

websites like Amazon and Facebook and beyond. As a result, American consumers face new dangers when they shop online. Counterfeit and stolen products defraud consumers, and they pose a risk to consumers' health, their safety, and their security.

Online marketplaces are failing right now to crack down on fraudsters and scammers. Instead, they actually have fueled high-profile cases of organized crime rings that are now brazenly hitting retail stores.

We have heard from consumers that Mr. BILIRAKIS mentioned. Many retailers are being hurt by this.

These stolen goods too often end up on the online marketplaces, and the INFORM Consumers Act puts an end to the online sale of dangerous products and stolen goods and limits criminal behavior.

The bill holds online marketplaces accountable for enabling criminal activity on their platforms. It requires online marketplaces to verify the identity of their third-party sellers. Verifying sellers lets Americans have confidence now, which we want them to have, when they shop online.

The bill empowers the Federal Trade Commission to enforce compliance with this bill.

I am grateful to my colleague, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and to all of those who have been supporting this legislation to finally protect consumers. I am proud that this bill has bipartisan support, and I certainly urge all of my colleagues to support the INFORM Consumers Act, H.R. 5502. Let's vote for it today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff for doing an outstanding job on this bill. It was not easy to find consensus, but we persevered. We did not give up. We didn't give up, and guess what? The American people are going to be benefiting from this. That is the most important thing. Our constituents will benefit from this bill.

Again, my subcommittee staffer, Tim Kurth, has done an outstanding job, along with the other members of the staff and Jan's staff, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we pass this bill unanimously, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, this bill is truly bipartisan, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5502, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

#### GUIDANCE CLARITY ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 533) to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 533

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Guidance Clarity Act of 2021”.

#### SEC. 2. GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT REQUIRED.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, shall include a guidance clarity statement as described in subsection (b) on any guidance issued by that agency under section 553(b)(3)(A) of title 5, United States Code, on and after the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issues the guidance required under subsection (c).

(b) GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT.—A guidance clarity statement required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be displayed prominently on the first page of the document; and

(2) include the following: “The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.”.

(c) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to implement this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 533 would require Federal agencies to include a guidance clarity statement on the first page of guidance documents.

Federal Rules, regulations, and guidance are complex, even at best of

times. For most Americans who do not spend hours per day reading through the Federal Register, guidance documents can be very confusing. This simple, good government bill will help clarify for the public that agency guidance is intended to help guide the implementation of Federal regulations, not to act as additional legally binding rules.

I thank Representative LUETKEMEYER and Ranking Member COMER for working with us to perfect this bill. This is a bipartisan bill which has passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be sent to the President's desk, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, agency guidance serves an important function in the Federal regulatory system. Agency guidance helps regulated parties and the public understand how agencies will interpret the laws and administer their programs.

However, agency guidance can be—and has been—abused. For example, agencies can use guidance documents to intimidate small businesses and individuals into compliance with agency views, sometimes under the threat of enforcement action.

Small businesses and the American people often do not have the legal resources or necessary background to know when an agency statement is binding law. It is tough for the public to determine what agency statements are binding and what are not.

Even Federal agencies have a tough time understanding the difference. They have been known to try to start enforcement actions based simply on guidance. Agencies have also been known to attempt to issue binding rules by quietly slipping rule language into guidance documents. This clearly bypasses the Administrative Procedure Act's requirements that were put in place to protect regulated individuals and small businesses.

The courts coined the term “non-rule rule” to describe this Big Government sleight of hand, and the courts have rightly struck down such rules that only appeared in agency guidance.

The Guidance Clarity Act offers a simple solution to these problems. It requires agency guidance documents to include the following explicit statement:

“The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency.

“This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.”

With that stroke of the pen, gone will be the days in which agencies can use guidance documents to force small businesses and individuals to comply with nonbinding agency views. Gone too will be the days of the agencies try-

ing to issue non-rule rules that bypass the Administrative Procedure Act's requirements for legislative rules.

I thank Senator LANKFORD for his hard work to make this legislation the law of the land.

I also thank the sponsor of the companion bill in this House, the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, who has worked tirelessly on this bill since he first introduced it during the 115th Congress.

Also, I thank House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman MALONEY, Ranking Member JAMES COMER, and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman GARY PETERS for their critical efforts to help make passage of this bill a bipartisan success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 533, the Guidance Clarity Act, which is identical to my bill, H.R. 1508, which passed the House by voice vote on October 20, 2021, almost 13 months ago.

American small businesses have enough to worry about, especially in this economy. Inflation, supply chain issues, and labor shortages have made it exceedingly difficult to be a small business owner right now. These are people who don't have time to worry about keeping track of the latest government red tape, which is made more difficult by the conflation of agency guidance with regulations or laws.

The purpose of guidance is to assist Americans in understanding rules and regulations and give them suggestions on how to adhere to them. However, it is important to note that guidance is not law, nor is it enforceable as law—it is simply a suggestion.

Guidance is not approved by Congress, nor does it go through the Federal rulemaking process which allows for public input and legal scrutiny of agency actions. Therefore, citizens are free to take the suggestion or completely ignore it.

Unfortunately, over the years, regulators have threatened punitive action against businesses for not following guidance. I am not talking about people breaking the law or ignoring Federal regulations who should certainly face consequences. I am talking about small businesses who are following Federal regulations but simply are not doing it in the manner certain regulators would prefer—the way their guidance suggested regulations be implemented. That is unacceptable, and it is illegal. Regulators have no legal authority to enforce guidance, and any



attempt to do so is an egregious abuse of power.

To make matters worse, thousands and thousands of guidance documents are constantly being produced. So instead of achieving their intended goal of providing clarity, they are making the waters even murkier.

With some regulators enforcing guidance while others do not, small businesses and entrepreneurs are falling deeper into the regulatory maze of the Federal Government.

The Guidance Clarity Act is a simple, straightforward solution. It ensures the first page of guidance documents includes a plain language statement declaring that guidance is not law, nor can it be legally enforced as law. This might seem like a small fix, but this critical statement clarifies for individuals, businesses, and regulators alike that guidance is meant to be helpful. It is a suggestion that can be put in place or disregarded.

It will help regulators do their jobs more efficiently and small businesses, who lack the resources to employ teams of expensive lawyers, to continue to strengthen our workforce and economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for bringing the Guidance Clarity Act to the floor. I also thank Senator LANKFORD for getting the bill across the finish line in the Senate. This is a commonsense solution that will help American small business owners, who are the drivers of our economy and embodiment of the American Dream, do what they do best.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the Guidance Clarity Act.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Guidance Clarity Act, small business owners and individuals across the country will soon have the confidence that agency guidance—however helpful and clarifying it may be—is not legally binding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this necessary bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 533, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 533.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORT ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3655) to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3655

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act of 2022”.

### SEC. 2. CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD EXTENSION OF TERM.

Section 5(n)(1) of Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115-426) is amended—

(1) by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”; and

(2) by striking “4-year period” and inserting “7-year period”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3655, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

I would like to begin by celebrating that this bill is bipartisan. It is co-led by Senators JON OSSOFF and TED CRUZ, and a companion bill was introduced in the House by my colleague, BOBBY RUSH of Illinois.

The Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 requires public disclosure of cold case files from the civil rights era that are still in the possession of Federal agencies. The 2018 law also created a review board tasked to review any agency decisions to delay public disclosure of civil rights cold case files within their possession.

As part of their examination, the review board will submit recommendations to the President, who has final decisionmaking authority over the public records disclosure. Under current law, the review board will be terminated by January of 2024.

This bill, S. 3655, revises the initial term of the board from 4 to 7 years with an optional extension year, if needed. The extension is critical because the work of the review board has been delayed.

The prior administration did not nominate members to the board when the bill was enacted in 2018. The current administration nominated board members in 2021, and all members were confirmed by February of 2022.

As a result of delays in nomination and confirmation of the review board members, S. 3655 provides the board additional time to complete its mission.

This bill has bipartisan support. In addition, the National Archives supports this bill because the extensions will ensure that review board members have enough time to complete their assignments.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 2019, President Trump signed the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act into law after it passed with broad bipartisan support in Congress.

The act directed the National Archives and Records Administration to make a collection of previously sealed civil rights cold case records available for public scrutiny. It also required the National Archives to establish a process for Federal agencies to transmit cold case records—older records from about 1940 to 1979—to the National Archives.

To do this, an independent agency review board was established to review the National Archives’ civil rights cold case records and evaluate which public record disclosures should be postponed.

The review board is also charged with investigating cold case records and requesting relevant documents held by government agencies and the courts be transferred to the National Archives. However, this board was not fully formed until this year, leaving the review board with less time than Congress intended before it terminates at the end of 2024.

The bill before us today, the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act, will extend the review board’s term until 2027. This extension will allow the board to increase the volume of cold case documents made available to the public. This will enable journalists, students, and others to lend their expertise to help investigate and resolve unsolved civil rights cold cases.

According to the Department of Justice, about 115 civil rights cases remain unsolved, and the older the cases become, the less likely they will ever be solved.

The 2019 law was necessary to establish a specific process for addressing cold case records instead of having citizens rely on the Freedom of Information Act to directly request individual

records from law enforcement agencies. The Freedom of Information Act is a valuable Federal records transparency tool, but it is not designed for enabling efficient access to open criminal cases.

□ 1715

Every cold case that is solved as a result of this legislation will provide long-awaited answers to the surviving family members of the victims and bring about resolution to the local communities where these crimes occurred.

S. 3655 will ensure that the review board has the necessary time to complete its critical work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senators TED CRUZ and JON OSOFF for moving this bipartisan legislation through the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Ranking Member JAMES COMER for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that my colleagues support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), from the First District, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy with the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the House sponsor of the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act of 2022.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of the committee, my good friend Congresswoman MALONEY.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3655, the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act of 2022. This bill is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 6818, and I am pleased beyond measure to support its passage on the floor today.

Four years ago, Mr. Speaker, Congress passed my bill, the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018, into law. That law created a collection of civil rights cold case records to be disclosed to the public, helping to resolve by bringing closure to the more than 100 unsolved cold cases from the civil rights era. It was designed to bring some small measure of comfort to families and communities that have waited far, far too long for answers about the loss of their loved ones so many decades ago. I hope today's passage will bring some sense of closure to these families.

A crucial part of that bill was the creation of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, which serves as an independent oversight agency that reviews requests to delay making civil rights cold case records public.

President Biden has appointed, and the Senate has confirmed, some wonderfully qualified nominees to the board, but since the previous administration failed to appoint any members to the board, the board is about to run out of its legislative time before it can truly bring its mission to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, the bill passed in the Senate, and I see no reason why the House cannot pass the bill today. I urge passage of the bill today.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), from the 12th District, who is the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security with the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Black Americans who were assaulted, terrorized, and killed during the Jim Crow era.

Our Nation has a long and troubling history of failing to deliver justice for victims of racially motivated violence. One could draw a direct line from the lynching of Emmett Till in 1955 to the killing of Trayvon Martin just 10 years ago. In neither case were the killers convicted.

Willie James Howard, Lamar Smith, and Reverend George W. Lee are but a few of the countless Black Americans who were killed for the crime of existing while Black in the Jim Crow South. In not one of these cases was a single perpetrator brought to justice.

I am proud of the students from Hightstown, New Jersey, in my district, who took time to write the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act with my friend, Congressman BOBBY RUSH. I am now calling on this Chamber to pass the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act, which will extend authorization of that legislation.

By passing this bipartisan bill, we can begin to heal the wounds of our past and demonstrate that racist violence has no place in America.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill continues to make information regarding cold cases available to the public. The American people deserve transparency from their Federal Government. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3655, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3655.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DISASTER RESILIENCY PLANNING ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (S. 3510) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance with respect to natural disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3510

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Resiliency Planning Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and  
(B) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(2) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 306 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) REAL PROPERTY.—The term "real property" has the meaning given the term in section 1.856–10 of title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

#### SEC. 3. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish guidance requiring the head of each agency to incorporate natural disaster resilience into real property asset management and investment decisions made by the agency.

(b) CONTENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall direct each head of an agency to incorporate assessments of natural disaster risk information conducted by the agency, such as from vulnerability and other risk assessments, into real property asset management investment decisions made by the agency.

(c) MODIFICATION.—The Director may periodically update the guidance required under subsection (a) as the Director may determine necessary for the purpose of further enhancing natural disaster resilience.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the guidance required under subsection (a), the Director may consult with appropriate entities, including—

(1) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(2) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(3) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Director.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the guidance required under subsection (a).

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the implementation of the guidance required under subsection (a) across agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act, was introduced by my colleague and counterpart in the Senate, Chairman GARY PETERS, along with Senator RICK SCOTT, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent in June. Our colleague, Representative TROY CARTER, is leading companion legislation in the House, which is also bipartisan.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill takes action to implement an important recommendation made by the Government Accountability Office last year. In 2021, GAO issued a report on the efforts of Federal agencies to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by mitigating the impact of natural disasters on Federal property and assets like buildings, roads, bridges, and levees.

In the 5 years leading up to the report, billions of taxpayer dollars were spent repairing the damage done to Federal assets by natural disasters, and current trends demonstrate that the frequency and severity of natural disasters are increasing as a result of climate change.

As the largest real property owner in the United States, the Federal Government's fiscal exposure to natural disasters is deeply concerning. The Federal Government lacks a comprehensive, strategic approach to resilience, which is key to addressing this risk and protecting taxpayer dollars.

Fortunately, agencies have made good progress in creating action plans that identify extreme weather vulnerabilities and steps that can be taken to address them. GAO's report recommended the crucial next step that agencies should be directed to incorporate these assessments into their asset management investment decisions.

That recommendation remains open today, but this bipartisan bill will ensure that it finally gets done. Within 180 days, OMB would be required to establish guidance for the incorporation of natural disaster resilience into the real property asset management and investment decisions of Federal agencies. As recommended by GAO, agencies would be required to incorporate their natural disaster risk information assessments into such decisions.

This commonsense, good government bill has been informed by years of GAO analysis and will protect taxpayer dollars by prioritizing cost-effective resilience strategies. We must implement

these action plans before the next superstorm or wildfire deals yet another blow to our Federal assets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires cause significant damage across the country to Federal real property assets. According to the Government Accountability Office, over the past 5 years, Congress has spent billions of dollars to repair Federal assets damaged by natural disasters. Yet, for decades, Federal agencies have made minimal efforts to prepare for natural disasters and make their real property assets more resilient. This is unacceptable.

Billions in taxpayer dollars have been wasted to repair assets left unprepared in the face of reoccurring and predictable risk posed by natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Natural disasters are a fact of life, and the U.S. Government maintains a sprawling footprint of buildings and facilities across our great Nation. We must recognize these realities. The Disaster Resiliency Planning Act does this.

It tasks the Office of Management and Budget with issuing guidance requiring Federal agencies to incorporate natural disaster resilience planning into their real property asset management and investment decisions. This will help save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal agencies are acting in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal property recovers from natural disasters more quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3510, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3510.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

#### METROPOLITAN AREAS PROTECTION AND STANDARDIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (S. 1941) to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1941

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021" or the "MAPS Act of 2021".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal programs use core-based statistical area delineations to determine the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States, such as in criteria for eligibility or distribution.

(2) Core-based statistical area delineations provide a nationally consistent set of standards for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas, and they are not intended for any public or private sector non-statistical uses such as program administration or service delivery.

(3) Updates to core-based statistical area delineations may cause widespread disruption to the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States based on the reliance of Federal programs on these delineations.

(4) There does not exist any comprehensive list of Federal programs that rely on core-based statistical area delineations. Such a list is valuable for the study of how Federal services, benefits, and funding are distributed to people in the United States.

(5) Increased transparency on the impacts of any update to core-based statistical area delineations may be overly burdensome due to the anticipated variety of Federal programs that rely on these delineations. Any requirement for complete disclosure of these impacts prior to implementation of new delineations may unintentionally cause the existing delineations to ossify.

(6) In order to prevent any disruption to service delivery of Federal programs based on updates to core-based statistical area delineations, and ensure the independence of Federal statistical policymaking, Congress must sever the link between future updates to core-based statistical area delineations and any automatic impact on Federal programs that rely on these delineations.

#### SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

This purpose of this Act is to ensure—

(1) transparency in how core-based statistical area delineations are used in domestic assistance programs; and

(2) independence of the Office of Management and Budget in establishing and updating core-based statistical area delineations.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term "Comptroller General" means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA.—The term "core-based statistical area" has the

meaning given the term by the Office of Management and Budget in the Notice of Decision entitled “2020 Standards for Delineating Core-Based Statistical Areas”, published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 37770), or any successor to that Notice.

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) **DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—The term “domestic assistance program” has the meaning given the term in section 6101 of title 31, United States Code.

(6) **OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.**—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

#### **SEC. 5. NON-PROPAGATION OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.**

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“§ 6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of the MAPS Act of 2021, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any change to the standards of core-based statistical area delineations pursuant to section 3504(e) of title 44—

“(1) shall not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program, including any such use as required through—

“(A) statutory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; or

“(B) administrative or regulatory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; and

“(2) shall propagate for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program only—

“(A) if a relevant agency determines that such a propagation—

“(i) supports the purposes of the program; and

“(ii) is in the public interest; and

“(B) through affirmative adoption through notice-and-comment rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—The definitions in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021 shall apply to this section.”

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6308 the following:

“6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations.”

#### **SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY OF NON-STATISTICAL USES OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6102(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H);

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) uses of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations (as chosen from standardized categories of uses determined by the Director), for purposes including prime recipient and subrecipient eligibility for, and distribution of, any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and”.

(b) **CONTENT REQUIREMENTS.**—In collecting and reviewing the information required under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall include as standardized categories—

(1) whether the most current core-based statistical area delineation has been affirma-

tively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(2) which historical core-based statistical area delineation was maintained, in cases where an updated delineation has not been affirmatively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(3) what purpose the core-based statistical area delineation serves, including—

(A) to determine eligibility for any Federal service, benefit, or funding;

(B) to determine distribution of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(C) any other standardized category of purpose determined by the Director;

(4) whether the use of core-based statistical area delineation directly concerns any—

(A) prime recipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(B) subrecipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(5) the date when the information collected in this subsection was last updated.

(c) **ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director shall ensure that the information collected and reviewed under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall be—

(1) publicly accessible as an open Government data asset;

(2) presented in a user-friendly visual format with search and download capabilities;

(3) easily discoverable by the public on relevant government websites; and

(4) updated not less frequently than once every year.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.**—The requirements of this section shall be fully implemented not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### **SEC. 7. INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.**

Section 3504(e) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) ensure that any change to the standards of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations pursuant to this subsection shall—

“(A) be accompanied by a public report that explains—

“(i) the scientific basis, criteria, and methodology for such change to existing standards, including clear quantitative thresholds for determining any future statistical re-delineations; and

“(ii) the opinions of domestic and international experts in statistics and demographics, including government experts at the Bureau of the Census and other relevant agencies, who were consulted regarding such change to existing standards;

“(B) not be influenced by any non-statistical considerations such as impact on program administration or service delivery; and

“(C) not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021).”.

#### **SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) assesses the completeness, timeliness, quality, accuracy, accessibility, and useful-

ness of the information reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(2) identifies any Federal programs, including any domestic assistance programs or other programs, that—

(A) use core-based statistical area delineations for any non-statistical purpose; and

(B) as of the date of the report, are not reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(3) if appropriate, includes any recommendations for Federal agencies or Congress based on the findings described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### **GENERAL LEAVE**

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization, or MAPS Act, focuses on a little-known process at the Office of Management and Budget that may seem arcane at first glance, but which has profound implications for the way the Federal Government serves the people of this Nation.

OMB maintains a set of standards to ensure consistency across the Federal Government in how agencies classify statistics by geographic area. These standards determine whether a county is considered “metropolitan” based on its proximity to an urban core. Although these standards are supposed to be used solely for statistical purposes, they are frequently used by Federal agencies to distribute funding, benefits, and programs.

Every 10 years, OMB considers recommendations from an interagency technical advisory committee, with input from the public, to ensure the continued relevance of the standards.

The recommendations for 2020 standards initially included a proposal that, for a county to qualify as metropolitan, it must be near an urban core with a population of 100,000, doubling the current threshold of 50,000 people.

Because this threshold hasn’t been changed since it first came into use in 1949, the proposed change would have converted 142 metropolitan statistical areas from the metropolitan designation to the nonmetropolitan designation.

According to the Brookings Institute, this would have impacted 19 million people and increased the share of

America's population residing in nonmetro counties from 14 percent to around 20 percent.

There is currently no inventory of all Federal programs that rely on the standard to distribute services, benefits, and funding, and no process for ensuring that agencies are equipped to review the impacts of potential changes on such programs.

As a result, what should be a purely statistical standards update actually has unknown and potentially profound ramifications for Federal program administration, warranting further review.

While the Standards Review Committee and OMB ultimately chose not to recommend or include this change in the final 2020 Standards, examination of the recommendation make clear that Congress must ensure that these statistical standards can be updated without the risk of unintended consequences cascading across the Federal programs and policies built around them.

To accomplish this, the MAPS Act would clarify that changes to the standards would not propagate automatically for any nonstatistical use by a domestic assistance program. Changes for nonstatistical uses could only take effect if the relevant agency determines that they support the purposes of the program and are in the public interest, and if such changes are affirmatively adopted through notice-and-comment rulemaking.

The bill would also create an inventory of the current uses and impacts of the standards in distributing Federal services, benefits, funding, creating transparency for both policymakers and the public.

In short, the MAPS Act puts in place the safeguards needed to ensure that the Federal Government's bedrock statistical standards can be updated purely based on scientific criteria, without the influence of nonstatistical considerations.

At the same time, it ensures that Federal policies and programs continue to operate as intended and are updated with careful consideration of their unique goals and impacts.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible, good government bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act, or MAPS Act, is a technical but important bill.

Maintaining government-wide statistical standards may seem mundane, but these standards have real-world consequences. We saw this last year when the Office of Management and Budget tried to make updates to the definition of core-based statistical areas. Out of the 734 public comments submitted, 712 comments opposed definitional change. As a result, the Office of Management and Budget delayed its proposed recommendation.

Municipalities and other organizations should not feel caught off guard by standards changes in the future. The MAPS Act will help provide transparency if the Office of Management and Budget tries to revise core-based statistical area standards in the future.

This bill will provide better visibility into how these statistical standards are used in Federal domestic assistance programs to determine funding eligibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Rural Health Association, and the National Association of Counties all agree that this legislation is needed.

I thank Senators ROB PORTMAN and JERRY MORAN, as well as Chairman GARY PETERS, for moving this bipartisan bill through the Senate.

I also take a moment to thank CAROLYN MALONEY, the chairwoman, and Ranking Member JAMES COMER for advancing this legislation through the House Oversight Committee. I support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941 will provide transparency into the Office of Management and Budget's work in the area of statistical standards. This bill does not restrict OMB from continuing its work keeping important statistical standards up to date. Instead, it provides transparency into future revisions of core-based statistical area standards. It also provides visibility into use of such standards in Federal domestic assistance programs.

I once again encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 1941, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1941.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7899) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75

Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7899

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' Dimock II Post Office Building."

Army Specialist Dimock was born in Libertyville on May 25, 1989, to Joseph and Ellen Dimock. He grew up in Wildwood, Illinois, and graduated from Warren Township High School. Growing up, he was a member of the Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Boy Scout Troop 672, and the Warren Blue Devils swim team.

In the spring of his senior year of high school, Army specialist Dimock joined the Army and began service in August of 2007. He served for nearly 3 years with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

On July 10, 2010, during his third overseas deployment and second deployment in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, he died in a noncombat explosion at an ammunition holding facility.

Army Specialist Dimock received several awards during his service to this country, including the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of

Army Specialist Dimock by naming a Post Office in Grayslake, Illinois, after him.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7899, which honors Army Specialist Joseph "Joey" W. Dimock, IL.

Joey, as he was known to his loved ones, grew up in Wildwood, Illinois, where he was actively involved with his church, swim team, and Boy Scout Troop 672, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

He joined the Army his senior year of high school and served for nearly 3 years with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

He was serving his third overseas deployment, his second deployment to Afghanistan, when he died on July 10, 2010, in a noncombat explosion at an ammunition holding facility.

For his time in service, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Specialist Dimock was a true American patriot that paid the ultimate price in service to a grateful Nation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring his sacrifice and service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American war hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 7899, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7899.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RYAN J. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6917) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6917

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. RYAN J. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6917, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building.

Marine Corporal Ryan John Cummings was born on April 6, 1984, and grew up to be a Cub Scout, honor student, wrestler, and a French horn player.

On September 10, 2001, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and completed basic training in San Diego. He was then stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, in 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division, ultimately earning the rank of corporal.

□ 1745

Corporal Cummings earned many awards, including the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Purple Heart, among others.

He was deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice on June 3, 2006, when he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Corporal Cummings by naming a post office in Crystal Lake, Illinois, after him, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6917, which would name a post office in Crystal Lake, Illinois, for Marine Corporal Ryan J. Cummings.

Corporal Cummings was born in Cook County, Illinois, in 1984. Marine Corporal Cummings was set on becoming a marine and, according to his family, signed up for duty on September 10, 2001, the night before the September 11 attacks on our Nation.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton. Sadly, he died from wounds sustained while conducting combat operations in Iraq on his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was only 22 years old.

Corporal Cummings was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart in recognition of having made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring Marine Corporal Ryan J. Cummings, a true American war hero.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 6917, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6917.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOWARD ARTHUR TIBBS POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2473) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2473

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. HOWARD ARTHUR TIBBS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.



## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2473 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office.

Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs was born on September 23, 1919, in Salem, Ohio. His family had a long history of military service, dating back to the Civil War, when Mr. Charles Howard, Sr., grandfather of Corporal Tibbs, fought in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Following this tradition of service, in World War II, Corporal Tibbs served as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, where he served in the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group.

In recognition of his military contributions and bravery, Corporal Tibbs was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

After his time in the military, Corporal Tibbs continued his career in private service with a career at the Internal Revenue Service. On January 26, 1986, he passed away in Newark, Ohio.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the bravery of Corporal Howard Tibbs by naming a post office in Salem, Ohio, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2473, which honors Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs.

Corporal Tibbs was one of the storied Tuskegee Airmen and served in the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group in World War II.

He was born and raised in Salem, Ohio, where his family had long resided. After his time in the military, he graduated from Youngstown College and enjoyed a long career with the Internal Revenue Service.

In recognition of his bravery and contributions to this country, Corporal Tibbs was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 after passing away on January 26, 1986, in Newark, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American veteran and a true hero.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to

close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs, one of our Nation's esteemed World War II Tuskegee Airmen.

Corporal Howard Tibbs was no stranger to military service. The Tibbs family's military history dates back to the Civil War, when Charles Henry, Sr., of Salem, Ohio, the grandfather of Howard Tibbs, fought with the Ohio Colored Troops in the Grand Army of the Republic.

In addition to dutifully serving our Nation's military efforts, the Tibbs family has actively participated in other patriotic endeavors, including helping to organize the local movement to guarantee the right to vote for women and educating young people about the military, cultural, and political contributions of Black Americans.

Corporal Howard Tibbs continued his family's legacy of duty, serving our Nation when he joined the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group during World War II.

In 2007, he posthumously received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his military contributions and bravery, both at home and abroad.

Today, the House has the opportunity to honor Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs by passing H.R. 2473 and naming the Salem post office after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American veteran and hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2473, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2473.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## ROY E. DICKENS POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7518) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7518

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. ROY E. DICKENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7518 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the Roy E. Dickens Post Office.

Mr. Roy Eugene Dickens was born on August 29, 1940, in Lola, Kentucky, to Corbett and Byrdie Dickens. From 1962 to 1965, he served in the U.S. Army. Following his service, he joined the Hazel Park Police Department in 1967. He retired from duty in 1995.

After retirement, he went to work as a court officer until 2010, making him the longest-serving public official in the history of Hazel Park, Michigan. Mr. Dickens is remembered for his 43 years of service to the Hazel Park community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Mr. Dickens by naming a post office in Hazel Park, Michigan, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7518, which would name a Michigan post office for Roy Dickens.

Mr. Dickens was a dedicated public servant in Hazel Park, Michigan. In fact, he was the longest-serving public official in Hazel Park, starting in 1967 when he joined the Hazel Park Police Department after serving in the United States Army. He retired from the police department in 1995 and then went

to work as a court officer until 2010. He is remembered fondly for his 43 years of service to the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, which honors a community civil servant and law enforcement officer.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), my friend and colleague from Michigan's Ninth District, the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Non-proliferation.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 7518, designating the post office at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the Roy E. Dickens Post Office.

Roy Dickens was a U.S. Army vet and longtime resident of Hazel Park, Michigan, where he was deeply involved in the community. He joined the Hazel Park Police Department in 1967 and served as an officer for 28 years, but Mr. Dickens was not finished. Following his tenure at the police department, he went on to serve proudly as a court officer for another 15 years until he retired in 2010.

Roy Dickens worked for the city of Hazel Park for 43 years. That makes him the longest-serving employee in the history of the city, a record he holds posthumously to this very day.

Mr. Dickens was known in southeast Michigan as a public servant, community leader, and good neighbor to all. He made a positive impact in the lives of those around him in so many ways and is remembered fondly by many people—first and foremost, his beloved wife, Marilyn, and children, Gina and David.

Roy Dickens left a legacy as a pillar of the Hazel Park community and someone who embodied the essence of public service. I am proud to honor him for generations to come with this post office dedication.

I thank Hazel Park Mayor Michael Webb, City Manager Ed Klobucher, and other civic leaders for collaborating with me on choosing the very best recipient for this honor. From this day forward, the post office on John R will remind residents of Hazel Park and surrounding towns of an unassuming leader who helped ensure the safety, peace, and tranquility of the community for everyone, Roy Dickens.

□ 1800

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring a great public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 7518, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7518.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3826) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3826

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3826, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. Fletcher was born and raised in Amarillo and Canyon, Texas. In 1969, Mr. Fletcher served a tour in Vietnam and was awarded three medals: the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his tour, he was an active member of his community as a philanthropist, banker, and rancher. His work ethic around the ranch and banking was inspirational to those around him.

Mr. Fletcher passed away on October 29, 2020, leaving behind his wife, three children, and six grandchildren.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fletcher by naming a post office in Canyon, Texas, after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3826, which names a post office in Canyon, Texas, for Gary James Fletcher.

Mr. Fletcher was born in nearby Amarillo, Texas, and grew up in Canyon, Texas. He joined the United States Army as a specialist E5 and was a decorated Vietnam war veteran, having been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon his return to Canyon, Texas, he attended West Texas State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Finance. He put his degree to work as a successful banker and rancher. He also devoted countless hours to volunteering, including with the United Way and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Most importantly, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring a great veteran and American hero, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Mr. Gary Fletcher.

Gary Fletcher embodied everything it means to be a west Texan: hard work, God-fearing, and service oriented. He lived a life of service before self, with a steadfast commitment to his family, his country, and his community.

He was an Amarillo-born hero who joined the U.S. Army in 1968. He served his country in the worst of times, during the Vietnam conflict, providing lifesaving medical care to countless young men who would have never returned home otherwise.

He was decorated for his service with the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mr. Fletcher later returned home to the Texas Panhandle and built a successful career as a banker and rancher and was a well-respected citizen in his community.

He was also an active member of the Washington Avenue Christian Church and a longtime volunteer for organizations like the United Way and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

He left behind an incredible legacy that will be carried on by his loving family, and now he will be forever memorialized through today's congressional action.

I humbly ask my colleagues to vote in favor of my bill to officially name the U.S. Post Office in Canyon, Texas, the Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, honoring an American veteran, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3826, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3826.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CORA REYNOLDS ANDERSON POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3884) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the "Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3884

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CORA REYNOLDS ANDERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3884, a bill to designate the facil-

ity of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office.

Ms. Cora Reynolds Anderson was born in L'Anse, Michigan, on April 10, 1882, and was a member of the Ojibwa Native American Tribe. She attended public school in the Upper Peninsula and the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, where she received her teacher's diploma. After graduating, she came back and taught at the Zeba Mission in the Upper Peninsula.

Ms. Anderson organized the first public health service in Baraga County, Michigan, and helped secure their first public health nurse.

In 1924, she became the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and the first Native American woman elected to serve in a State legislature. Her election came only 4 years after women were granted the right to vote.

During her term in office, Ms. Anderson chaired the Industrial Home for Girls Committee and was on multiple committees, including Agriculture, Insurance, and the Northern State Normal School.

She was an advocate for public health, primarily focused on fighting against alcoholism and tuberculosis. She also fought to recognize Native American fishing rights on Huron Bay.

After her tenure as a representative, Ms. Anderson served as an officer for the Upper Peninsula in the Michigan State Grange. In 2000, the Michigan House of Representatives named the new house office building in Lansing in her honor. She was also inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Anderson by naming a post office in Baraga, Michigan, after her, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3884, which honors Cora Reynolds Anderson, the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and the first Native American woman elected to serve in a State legislature.

Ms. Anderson was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1924, just 4 years after women were granted the right to vote.

During her sole term in office, she chaired the Industrial Home for Girls Committee. She was also an advocate for public health, helping Baraga County, Michigan, secure its first public health nurse and organize the county's first public health service.

As a member of the Ojibwa Native American Tribe, she also fought to recognize Native American fishing rights on Huron Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring this loyal public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S.

3884, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3884.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1841

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
Washington, DC, November 9, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. J. Bradley King and Ms. Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Directors of the Indiana Election Division, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held November 8, 2022, the Honorable Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III was elected for Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District, State of Indiana.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF INDIANA,  
INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION,  
Indianapolis, Indiana, November 9, 2022.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for Representative in Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Indiana show that Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III received 118,688 of the total number of votes cast for that office (187,320).

It would appear from these unofficial results that Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III was elected as Representative in Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Indiana.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

J. BRADLEY KING,  
Co-Director.  
ANGELA M. NUSSMEYER,  
Co-Director.

#### SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RUDY YAKYM III, OF INDIANA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Indiana, the Honorable RUDY YAKYM III, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not yet arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Indiana delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. YAKYM appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 117th Congress.

#### WELCOMING THE HONORABLE RUDY YAKYM III TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, as the dean of the Indiana delegation, I am honored to welcome the newest Hoosier to serve here in the people's House, Congressman RUDY YAKYM.

Before his election last week, he worked as a vice president at a commercial real estate firm and, most recently, as a director of growth initiatives at an Indiana logistics and supply chain company. He was also nominated by former Governor Mike Pence to serve on the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

Our new colleague will be representing Indiana's Second Congressional District, and he is supported by his wife, Sallyann, and their three children.

I welcome the Congressman to the House and look forward to working with him to advance Hoosier values.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to deliver this maiden speech from the well of the House Chamber.

First, I acknowledge the late Congresswoman Jackie Walorski. Jackie delivered results for the district, and she had the utmost respect for her colleagues in this room. This was never more evident than at her funeral services in August, where one-third of the room was filled with hundreds of Members, Republicans and Democrats, from all over the country.

□ 1845

Jackie fostered relationships on both sides of the aisle and worked collaboratively to get things done for our families and businesses. She was particularly dedicated to our veterans, our U.S. military, and our allies in Israel.

As her successor, I will work every day to honor her memory and uphold her impeccable work ethic.

Since the founding of our Nation, a little over 10,000 people have been elected to this body, and it is the honor of a lifetime to stand here tonight representing Indiana's Second Congressional District.

I am grateful to my beautiful wife, Sallyann, as well as our three children, Elle, Rudy IV, and Eliza. We also have other family and close friends who are in the gallery this evening.

To the Hoosiers who have placed their trust in me to best represent them in this House—the people's House—thank you. I ask for your continued prayers for wisdom as we work to make our Nation a more perfect Union.

Yes, there are real policy issues that need to be addressed, such as our massive deficit and 40-year high inflation rates. But just as importantly, our country needs unity. And it starts right here.

I often tell my kids to stop complaining and do the hard things. That is how we grow, how we learn, and how we succeed in life. And I will apply that same approach here in Congress.

It is time to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work collaboratively to find common ground and forge solutions for Hoosiers. That is what Jackie did, and I can't wait to get started.

May God bless the United States of America.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Indiana, the whole number of the House is 433.

#### PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VEASEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 304, nays 111, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 478]

YEAS—304

Adams	Cuellar	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	Curtis	Jones
Allred	David (KS)	Joyce (OH)
Amodei	Davis, Danny K.	Joyce (PA)
Arrington	Dean	Kahele
Auchincloss	DeFazio	Kaptur
Axne	DeGette	Katko
Bacon	DeLauro	Keating
Balderson	DelBene	Keller
Banks	DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Bass	Dingell	Khanna
Beatty	Doggett	Kildee
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Kilmer
Beyer	F.	Kim (CA)
Bilirakis	Duncan	Kim (NJ)
Bishop (GA)	Ellzey	Kind
Blumenauer	Escobar	Kirkpatrick
Blunt Rochester	Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi
Bonamici	Espallat	Kuster
Bost	Estes	LaHood
Bourdeaux	Evans	Lamb
Bowman	Fitzgerald	Langevin
Boyle, Brendan	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
F.	Fletcher	Larson (CT)
Brown (MD)	Flores	Latta
Brown (OH)	Foster	LaTurner
Brownley	Frankel, Lois	Lawrence
Buchanan	Franklin, C.	Lawson (FL)
Buck	Scott	Lee (CA)
Budd	Fulcher	Lee (NV)
Burchett	Gaetz	Leger Fernandez
Bush	Gallagher	Levin (CA)
Bustos	Gallego	Levin (MI)
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lieu
Calvert	Garbarino	Lofgren
Carbajal	Garcia (CA)	Lowenthal
Cárdenas	Garcia (IL)	Luetkemeyer
Carey	Garcia (TX)	Luria
Carson	Jimenez	Lynch
Carter (GA)	Golden	Mace
Carter (LA)	Gomez	Malinowski
Cartwright	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis
Case	Gonzalez,	Maloney,
Casten	Vicente	Carolyn B.
Castor (FL)	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Castro (TX)	Granger	Mann
Chabot	Green, Al (TX)	Manning
Cherfilus-	Griffith	Mast
McCormick	Harder (CA)	McBath
Chu	Hayes	McCaul
Cicilline	Higgins (NY)	McClain
Clark (MA)	Hill	McCollum
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	McEachin
Cleaver	Houlahan	McGovern
Clyburn	Hoyer	McHenry
Cohen	Hudson	McNerney
Cole	Huffman	Meeks
Connolly	Issa	Meijer
Conway	Jackson Lee	Meng
Cooper	Jacobs (CA)	Meuser
Correa	Jacobs (NY)	Mfume
Courtney	Jayapal	Moolenaar
Craig	Jeffries	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Johnson (GA)	Moore (WI)
Crow	Johnson (OH)	Morelle

Moulton  
Mrvan  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newman  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Peltola  
Perlmuter  
Peters  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rodgers (AL)  
Ross  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz

Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan (NY)  
Ryan (OH)  
Salazar  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sempolinski  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozzi

## NAYS—111

Aderholt  
Allen  
Armstrong  
Babin  
Baird  
Barr  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice (OK)  
Biggs  
Boebert  
Brady  
Brooks  
Burgess  
Cammack  
Carl  
Carter (TX)  
Cawthorn  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Comer  
Crenshaw  
Davidson  
DesJarlais  
Donalds  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Foxy  
Gibbs

Gohmert  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hartzler  
Hern  
Herrell  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hinson  
Hollingsworth  
Huizenga  
Jackson  
Johnson (LA)  
Jordan  
Kelly (MS)  
Kustoff  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McClintock  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (WV)

Miller-Meeks  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Mullin  
Murphy (NC)  
Nehls  
Norman  
Owens  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Scalise  
Scott, Austin  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Spartz  
Steube  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Van Dwyne  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wilson (SC)  
Womack

## NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (NC)  
Bucshon  
Cheney  
Costa  
Davis, Rodney  
Demings

Gonzalez (OH)  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Herrera Beutler  
Himes  
Johnson (SD)

Kinzing  
Matsui  
McKinley  
Newhouse  
Yarmuth

□ 1913

Messrs. OWENS, LONG, and JOHN-SON of Louisiana changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Stevens)  
Carter (GA)  
(Fleischmann)  
Courtney  
(Perlmuter)  
Craig (Stevens)  
DeFazio  
(Pallone)  
Gonzalez,  
(Neguse)  
Vicente  
(Correa)  
Graves (MO)  
(Fleischmann)  
Harder (CA)  
(McNerney)  
Jacobs (NY)  
(Sempolinski)  
Johnson (GA)  
(Correa)  
Johnson (TX)  
(Stevens)

Joyce (PA)  
(Smucker)  
Katko (Kim  
(CA)  
Keating (Neguse)  
Kirkpatrick  
(Pallone)  
Krishnamoorthi  
(Neguse)  
LaMalfa  
(Fleischmann)  
Lawrence  
(Stevens)  
Lawson (FL)  
(Evans)  
Lee (NV)  
(Pappas)  
Luria (Beyer)  
McEachin  
(Beyer)  
Morelle (Meng)

Newman (Correa)  
Palazzo  
(Bilirakis)  
Payne (Pallone)  
Porter (Neguse)  
Rice (NY) (Meng)  
Rice (SC)  
(Valadao)  
Ryan (OH)  
(Correa)  
Sewell (Cicilline)  
Sherrill  
(Pallone)  
Sires (Pallone)  
Torres (NY)  
(Cicilline)  
Wild (Evans)  
Wilson (FL)  
(Cicilline)

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE  
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR  
OF H.R. 7229

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 7229, a bill originally introduced by Representative WALORSKI of Indiana, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting re-printings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING SIGMA GAMMA RHO  
SORORITY'S CENTENNIAL

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to salute my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, for its centennial celebration on November 12, 2022. We were founded in Indianapolis, Indiana, at Butler University November 12, 1922, by seven illustrious schoolteachers. Now we are led by the wonderful Grand Basileus Rasheeda Liberty, and we will embark on our next 100 with greater service, greater progress.

## COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Veterans Day, a day in which we remember all those who have served our Nation in uniform.

This day was originally commemorated by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 as Armistice Day to remember all those who served in World War I.

In 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day in a proclamation by President Dwight Eisenhower to honor those who had served in uniform. In 1968, Congress officially designated Veterans Day as a Federal holiday.

We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to all those who have served and are cur-

rently serving in our military. Your sacrifice, dedication, and courage to our country is the reason we are able to live our lives in safety and freedom today.

In my home State of Pennsylvania alone, there are almost 800,000 veterans, with 300,000 being wartime veterans, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all of our veterans for their service to our country. May we always remember those who have made sacrifices to preserve our freedoms and our way of life.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle and neighbor that took a child with them to the polling place during this past election.

This simple act of bringing a child to their polling place and letting them see how a vote is cast is a powerful form of education about the United States of America for the aspiring generations.

Involving children, too, in seeing how you fill out a mail-in ballot is a lesson every person can teach. It teaches youngsters how important voting is as an adult and allows children to absorb and learn directly about liberty, about individual freedom, and about meeting one's civic responsibility to community and Nation.

Voting demonstrates fundamental reverence to Old Glory. Long may she fly high.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF DR. MATTELIA BENNETT  
GRAYS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays.

I wear white today, having just come from Houston and celebrating her life as the International 18th president of Alpha Kappa Alpha and a major leader in The Links organization; what a remarkable woman, a woman of her era, 91 years old; graduated from Dillard, the University of Michigan, and Pacific University with a doctorate degree, a strong and vivacious woman, elegant but, as well, determined to teach children a better way.

A pioneering civil rights leader who, in fact, provided Alpha Kappa Alpha chartered groups on schools that were majority not integrated but majority Anglo, if you will, institutions that were not historically Black colleges. But she was strong and wanted to present a wonderful opportunity for young women, wanted them to have the same kind of leadership that she did.

She was the daughter of a preacher and a wonderful mother that invested in her the love of faith in God; and she was a person who benefited so many young people in her era and in her time.

Yes, this fierce lover of life, strong, determined leader, has now taken her wings, and I was pleased to be at her homegoing service to be able to honor her daughter Karen, her brother, Cornel, and Joan, her sister, grandson, Kristopher, his wife, and their children, and all her other relatives.

I was delighted that the mayor of the city of Houston named this day, November 14, 2022, as Dr. Mattelia Grays Day. I am here to honor her on the floor of the House. May she rest in peace. May her spirit continue to lift us up as we celebrate our 18th international president, Dr. Grays, as she rests in peace and goes home to join her honey-do, her husband.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and praise Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays for a life well lived—where she was dedicated to public service through education and was a member of the renowned Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Incorporated.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was a remarkable woman, a mother, a community leader, and a woman of God who passed away this month at the age of 91.

Dr. Bennett Grays was the 18th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Incorporated serving from 1970 to 1974.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was born on July 26, 1931, in Houston, Texas, to the Reverend Abel B. Bennett and Mrs. Delcia McNeal Bennett.

During her formative years, Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays and her family attended Pleasant Hill Baptist Church until her father built from the ground up a small church, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, in Chappell Hill, Texas.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays attended schools in the Houston Independent School District and graduated in 1948 as salutatorian of her graduating class at Booker T. Washington High School. She was blessed to have earned and received a full-ride scholarship to attend Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she thrived and excelled in her studies.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays pledged and was initiated into Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She received her B.A. degree from Dillard University in 1952 and was married to Horace Wesley Grays, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated that same year. A beautiful daughter, Karen Grays-Gray was born to this wonderful couple.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays received her M.A. degree with honors in special education from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She later received her Doctorate in educational administration from Pacific University in Sacramento, California, in 1985. She returned to Houston to teach in the Houston Independent School District. After several years with HISD, she began working summers with the University of Houston as a supervisor for laboratory experiences for teachers of culturally deprived children.

Upon graduation from the University of Michigan, Dr. Grays transferred her sorority

membership to Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter in Houston, where she served as chapter president and South Central Regional Director. She was the youngest person ever elected as International President of the sorority in 1968 and was installed at the sorority's biennial national convention in 1970.

A little-known fact is Dr. Grays, during the Civil Rights era, was instrumental and the driving force in chartering 14 undergraduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated on predominantly white universities. During her term as Supreme Basileus, she chartered a total of 56 undergraduate chapters at predominantly white universities.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Horace Grays, sisters, Barbara Jefferson, Willie Mae Sanford, and brother Randolph McBride.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays leaves to honor her legacy her loving daughter, Karen Grays-Gray (Benjamin Gray, son-in-law), her siblings, Cornel Joseph Jefferson, Sr., Joan Bennett McBride, a grandson, Kristopher John Howard (Jennifer Howard, granddaughter-in-law), and great-grandchildren, Karolina Austen Howard, and Kristopher John Howard, Jr., and a host of cousins, nephews, and niece and friends.

Her work and deeds are most deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the United States Congress.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL SCHRAGE

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to congratulate Michael Schrage, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Centier Bank as he celebrates his 50th work anniversary.

Under his outstanding leadership, Centier Bank has been recognized as the largest private, family-owned bank in the State of Indiana and, since 2007, has annually been named one of Indiana's best places to work. I believe that this is due to Michael's value-based work ethic that fosters a supportive and thoughtful work environment.

I also appreciate that Michael has proven himself to be a pillar in the community, volunteering his time and efforts to countless charity organizations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Michael Schrage on this incredible accomplishment and his commitment to our region and helping those in need.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 117th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

RUDY YAKYM III, Second District of Indiana.

#### BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5441, the PAST Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5850. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2020-OS-0094] (RIN: 0790-AL17) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5851. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Department of State Rescission of Determination Regarding Sudan (DFARS Case 2021-D027) [Docket: DARS-2021-0019] (RIN: 0750-AL46) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5852. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Representation Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials (DFARS Case 2021-D030) [Docket: DARS-2022-0022] (RIN: 0750-AL52) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5



U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5853. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's advisory opinion — Fair Credit Reporting; Facially False Data received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5854. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Listing Standards for Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation [Release Nos.: 33-11126; 34-96159; IC-31732; File No. S7-12-15] (RIN: 3235-AK99) November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5855. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Tailored Shareholder Reports for Mutual Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds; Fee Information in Investment Company Advertisements [Release Nos.: 33-11125; 34-96158; IC-34731; File No. S7-09-20] (RIN: 3235-AM52) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5856. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Enhanced Reporting of Proxy Votes by Registered Management Investment Companies; Reporting of Executive Compensation Votes by Institutional Investment Managers [Release Nos.: 33-11131; 34-96206; IC-34745; File No.: S7-11-21] (RIN: 3235-AK67) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5857. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended; Student Assistance General Provisions; Federal Perkins Loan Program; Federal Family Education Loan Program; and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2021-OPE-0077] (RIN: 1840-AD53; 1840-AD59; 1840-AD70; 1840-AD71) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5858. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5859. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel of Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Change of Address; Technical Amendments (RIN: 1212-AB55) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5860. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard for Infant Bath Tubs [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0019] received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5861. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's regulatory guide — Guide for Assessing, Monitoring, and Mitigating Aging Effects on Electrical Equipment Used in Production and Utilization Facilities [Regulatory Guide 1.248, Revision 0] received October 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5862. A letter from the Chief, Direct Investment Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Investment Surveys: BE-12, Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States [Docket No.: 220922-0196] (RIN: 0691-AA93) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5863. A letter from the Chief, Direct Investment Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Investment Surveys: BE-13, Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States [Docket No.: 220923-0197] (RIN: 0691-AA92) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5864. A letter from the Chief, Balance of Payments Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Services Surveys: Renewal of and Changes to BE-120 Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons, and Clarifying When BE-140 and BE-180 Benchmark Surveys Are Conducted [Docket No.: 220901-0181] (RIN: 0691-AA91) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5865. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0045] (RIN: 0790-AL50) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5866. A letter from the Senior Wildlife Inspector, Office of Law, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties; 2022 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2022-0004; FFW09L00200-FX-LE12200900000] (RIN: 1018-BF67) received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5867. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Technical, Organizational, Conforming, and Correcting Amendments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations [Docket No.: FMCSA-2022-0149] (RIN: 2126-AC47) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5868. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Control, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Elimination of Customs Broker District Permit Fee [USCBP-2020-0010] (RIN: 1515-AE43) received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5869. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernization of the Customs Broker Regulations [USCBP-2020-0009] (RIN: 1651-AB16) received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5870. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Implementation of Refund Procedures for Craft Beverage Modernization Act Federal Excise Tax Benefits Applicable to Imported Alcohol [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0009; T.D. TTB-186; Re: Notice No.: 186] (RIN: 1513-AC89) received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5871. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of plan amendment deadlines relating to CARES Act Section 2202 and Relief Act Section 302 [Notice 2022-45] received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5872. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of section 42 relief in Notice 2022-5 [Notice 2022-52] received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5873. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Organ Acquisition; Rural Emergency Hospitals: Payment Policies, Conditions of Participation, Provider Enrollment, Physician Self-Referral; New Service Category for Hospital Outpatient Department Prior Authorization Process; Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating [CMS-1772-FC; CMS-1774-F; CMS-3419-F; CMS-5531-F; CMS-9912-F] (RIN: 0938-AU82) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-551). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 4275. A bill to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 117-552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 5441. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 6290. A bill to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-554). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 5502. A bill to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers (Rept. 117-555). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules.

House Resolution 1464. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 4524) to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment; and for other purposes (Rept. 117-556). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R. 7310. A bill to protect America's retirement security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-557, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILLS

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 4374. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than December 8, 2022.

H.R. 7310. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than January 2, 2023.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 9291. A bill to require a report on the death of Shireen Abu Akleh; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 9292. A bill to promote United States interests at the international financial insti-

tutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9293. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9294. A bill to amend the Claims Resolution Act to make a technical correction to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and the Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 9295. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Incorporated, is recognized as a Village Corporation under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 9296. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive review of understaffing across the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 1463. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "move over" laws; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. KELLER):

H. Res. 1465. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the consideration of bills and resolutions whose titles do not adequately express their contents; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1466. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1467. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1468. A resolution of inquiry directing the Director of National Intelligence to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1469. A resolution of inquiry directing the Director of National Intelligence to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H. Res. 1470. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 14 through November 18, 2022, as "National Family Service Learning Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ML-237. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 171, condemning the expansion of the Internal Revenue Service through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 9291.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 9292.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9293.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9294.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 9295.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 9296.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 69: Mr. CORREA.  
H.R. 79: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 761: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 855: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 962: Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 1304: Mr. LATURNER.  
H.R. 1313: Ms. DEAN.  
H.R. 1321: Mr. CHABOT and Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 1401: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 1512: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 1729: Mr. EMMER.  
H.R. 1946: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 2021: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
H.R. 2549: Mr. MCKINLEY.  
H.R. 2566: Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 2654: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 2791: Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 2953: Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 3089: Ms. BASS and Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 3160: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 3259: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
H.R. 3335: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
H.R. 3337: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 3339: Mr. SWALWELL.  
H.R. 3425: Mr. OWENS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

#### MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

H.R. 3434: Mrs. DEMINGS.  
 H.R. 3586: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 3614: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 3728: Ms. MATSUI.  
 H.R. 3981: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 4086: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 4141: Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 4146: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 4385: Mr. EVANS and Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
 H.R. 4436: Mrs. LESKO and Ms. KAPTUR.  
 H.R. 4464: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 4847: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 5067: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 5782: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H.R. 5788: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H.R. 5883: Mr. KIND.  
 H.R. 5924: Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 6018: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 6132: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 6287: Mr. HILL and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 6290: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 6544: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 6626: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 6781: Ms. JACOBS of California.  
 H.R. 6817: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 6818: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
 H.R. 6823: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 7061: Mr. NADLER.  
 H.R. 7151: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 7382: Mr. GIBBS and Ms. SALAZAR.  
 H.R. 7474: Ms. CHU, Ms. Barragán, and Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 7477: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 7559: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 7745: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.  
 H.R. 7752: Mr. CARSON.  
 H.R. 7882: Mr. MORELLE.  
 H.R. 7933: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 8023: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 8088: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 8210: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
 H.R. 8227: Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
 H.R. 8299: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 8333: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. ALLRED.  
 H.R. 8341: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 8393: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 8433: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 8452: Mr. MORELLE.  
 H.R. 8455: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 8546: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 8616: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
 H.R. 8621: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 8654: Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 8727: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 8747: Mr. MOONEY.  
 H.R. 8800: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 8876: Mr. PETERS, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. MANNING.  
 H.R. 8906: Ms. ROSS.  
 H.R. 9008: Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 9013: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. BUDD.  
 H.R. 9049: Ms. MACE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 9070: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 9071: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 9074: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.R. 9197: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 9200: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 9202: Mr. POCAN and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 9226: Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H.R. 9245: Mr. WELCH and Ms. TLAIB.  
 H.R. 9255: Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 9275: Ms. STEFANIK.  
 H.R. 9282: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H. Con. Res. 110: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. PETERS.  
 H. Res. 922: Mr. TONKO, Ms. DEAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. TRONE.  
 H. Res. 1320: Mr. MAST.  
 H. Res. 1335: Mr. TAKANO.  
 H. Res. 1392: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

#### PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-151. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in OK, relative to a resolution supporting the seating of Victoria Holland as the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with the Treaties of 1785 and 1835; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

PT-152. Also, a petition of the Employees' Retirement System of Jersey City, NJ, relative to a resolution joining with other public employees/retirees in urging Congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress legislation (to repeal the GPO and WEP provision) and to move this legislation through passage and to being signed into law; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.